

Hafa Adai!

Former judge: Land was collateral for just \$10K. **PAGE 7**
Kilili: \$3.8M for airport bridgeways. **PAGE 10**

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75¢

Autopsy on 3 workers OK'd

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **OSHA also probes tragic incident**

Attorney General Edward Manibusan has approved a request for an autopsy on the remains of the three workers who were killed while working inside a Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s 24-foot sewer well in San Antonio.

The Department of Public Safety made the request.

It is believed the three died due to toxic gas exposure and drowning.

Acting chief prosecutor Matthew Baisley told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola will conduct the autopsy at the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue

See AUTOPSY on Page 4

Sprint to pass FY 2018 budget begins

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With a little over two months left in the fiscal year calendar, the sprint has begun for the Legislature to get the fiscal year 2018 budget to its Sept. 30 finish line.

The House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee started deliberations on the fiscal year 2018 budget yesterday in an attempt to complete it by the end of the month. That will provide just 10 weeks for the Senate to hold its

See SPRINT on Page 4

PAVED PARKING

Using close to \$89,000 in federal funds, the parking area of the Garapan Fishing Base is now paved and is capable of holding up to 11 boat trailers at a time.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

See story on Page 3



APC machines unveiled at Saipan airport

By **BEA CABRERA**
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Automated Passport Control machines that are hoped to shorten the

lengthy immigration lines at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport were unveiled at the airport's arrival area last July 12.

As to how effective the machines

are in cutting the wait times at immigration, only time will tell.

APCs are machines physically similar to ATMs and are designed to speed the processing time of in-

bound passengers that go through U.S. immigration upon entry.

"The acquisition of the APC machines has a two-fold purpose. One is to address the situation that we don't have enough Customs and Border Protection officers; and two, to di-

minish the long lines that in-bound passengers face entering the CNMI," said Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Barrie Toves.

"Due to the number of flights everyday, the machines will help alle-

See APC on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Glamping Village on Saipan along Isa Drive formally opens.

PAGE 6



LOCAL

MYPros names the four nominees of this year's Spotlight Award.

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LIFE & STYLE

Shia LaBeouf apologizes for a racist tirade against police officers and jailors.

PAGE 25

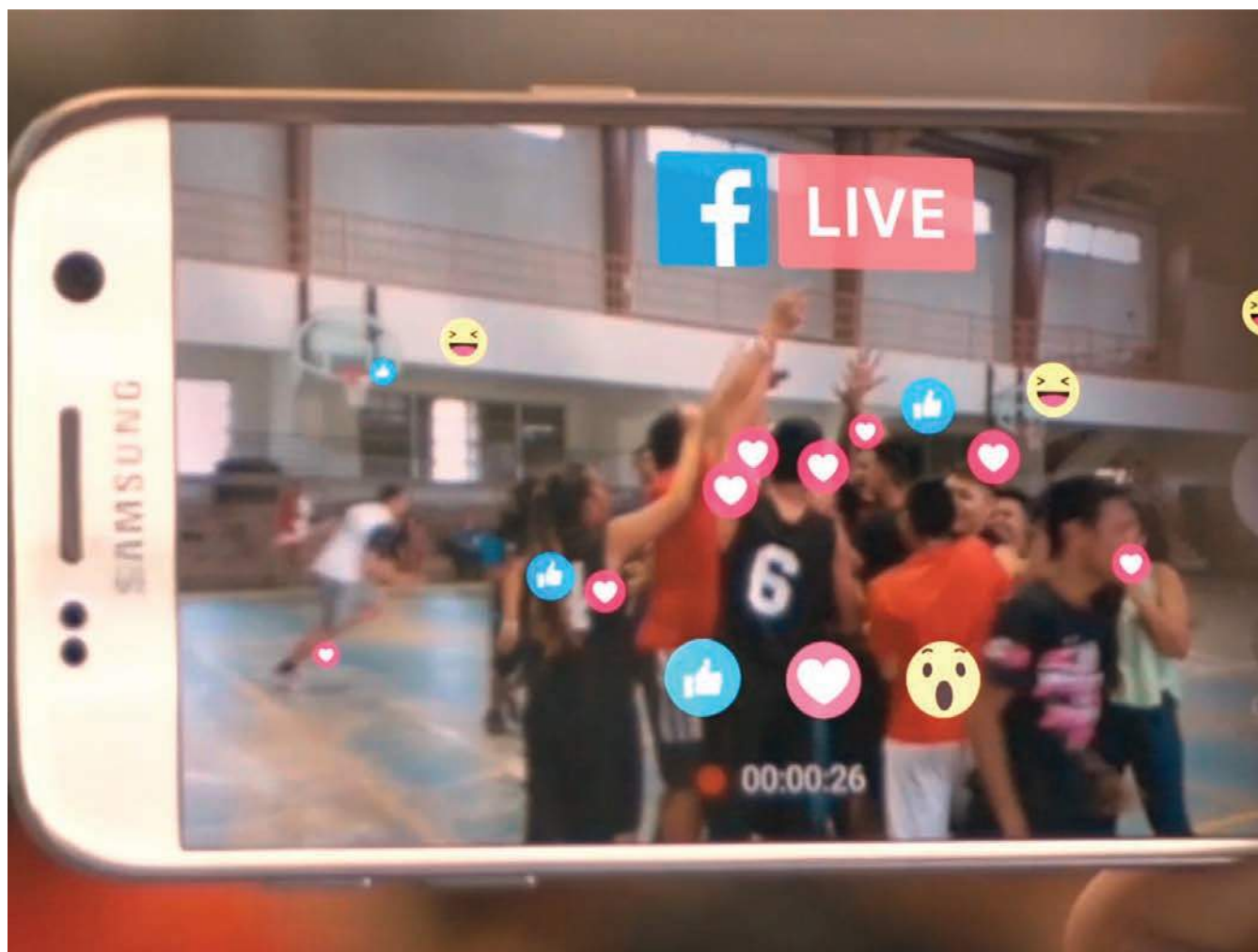


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Local

Vysochen back in jail

Eugene Vysochen is back in jail, this time for harassing a female cashier at a gas station in Chalan Kiya and attempting to attack two men on Tuesday night.

Vysochen, 26, was arrested that same night for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. He was then taken to the Commonwealth Health Center and later detained at the Department of Corrections.

When a police officer responded to the Mobil gas station in Chalan Kiya, the cashier was shaking from fear. A male employee had scratches on the left elbow.

A \$5,000 cash bail was imposed on Vysochen yesterday; preliminary hearing is on July 19.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski was appointed as his counsel. Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio appeared for the government.

According to police, Vysochen went to the gas station, shouted at the cashier while pointing at her face.

A male customer came out of the store and asked a male employee, who was pumping gas, to check inside because the suspect was about to hit the cashier.

When the male employee went inside the store, Vysochen ran to the restroom. He later went out and threatened

to beat up the male employee and the customer.

Outside the store, the suspect seemed about to punch the customer. The male employee then wrapped his arm around the suspect and they fell to the ground in the struggle.

Vysochen then ran away.

The gas station's supervisor told police that Vysochen is very violent and that it was not the first time he harassed their employees and customers.

The supervisor disclosed that she filed a police report last Nov. 19 after Vysochen cracked their front glass door by kicking it for no reason at all.

Vysochen had been arrested several times in the past for violent actions.

The defendant has many names and aliases to include Yeugenity Cysochin, Yevgeniy E. Vysochin, Yevgeniy Eduardovich Vysochin, and Eugene.

Last November, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho slapped Vysochen with a prison sentence of four months and nine days. He again expressed his concern about the apparent lack of a meaningful way to provide mental health care to defendants with mental illness and or disability in the CNMI criminal justice system. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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SCHOOL PRIDE PROJECT

Margaret Cui Lijie, third from left, the majority shareholder of Imperial Pacific International Ltd., visited San Vicente Elementary School yesterday afternoon. IPI's Corporate Social Responsibility is currently initiating its School Pride Project at SVES, with 28 classrooms being cleaned up and repainted. In this photo, Lijie is joined by acting school principal Ana Guerrero and Chandis Cooper, Alex Sablan, and Lucy Guo, also of IPI.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC

Garapan Fishing Base's parking area is paved

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Using close to \$89,000 in federal funds, the parking area of the Garapan Fishing Base is now paved and is capable of holding up to 11 boat trailers at a time.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources worked with the Department of Public Works as the contractor of the project.

According to DLNR Secretary Anthony G. Benavente, the project was funded through a federal grant that specifically funds the development of parking areas for boat trailers.

Acting DPW Technical Division director George C. Sablan said they got the notice to proceed with the project on June 7, 2017. The contract gave them 60 days to complete it.

According to Benavente, the parking area was complet-

ed on July 4 but the vision is to connect the parking area to Beach Road so that the entire area is smoothly cemented for the convenience of fishermen.

Benavente feels that the completion of the project will lessen congestion in the area.

The entire project cost close to \$89,000, according to him.

A fisherman who agreed to speak yesterday said that paving the base's parking area is a good idea as cars and boat trailers are usually scattered all over the area and accidents are prone to happen. He feels that, with the new parking area, it is now easier for fishermen to organize themselves and their trailers.

The Garapan Fishing Base is one of the most popular sites on Saipan. It is not just a boat ramp. It is also the location of the weekly Thursday Market and other annual festivities and serves as a source of revenue for many fishermen.

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SNILD could tap poker fees to help CARE

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation can tap poker fees to help the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts fund its continued rebuilding efforts on Saipan.

In a presentation last Tuesday, CARE said it needs \$650,000 to help the remaining 48 families whose homes were destroyed by Typhoon Soude-lor in August 2015.

Delegation chair Rep. John Paul “JP” Sablan (R-Saipan) said the group’s other funding

sources are either too insignificant or are restricted to fund other programs.

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program acquires \$3.1 million from the poker fees, according to Saipan Local Law 18-07. Sablan mentioned that currently, the poker fees

amount to a little over \$4 million. Minus the \$3.1 million, that leaves the delegation with about \$900,000 in excess for other projects.

“[The poker fee] funding is one source that can help,” Sablan told CARE director Jenny Hegland.

Sablan told Hegland the del-

egation would look into assisting CARE after this October, since the poker arcades in the non-conforming areas designated by the Commonwealth Zoning Board have until then to operate.

“I told them I would find a source of funding to assist them,” Sablan said, add-

ing that he already informed Hegland that he “cannot promise \$650,000.”

Hegland said in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune* that even though there are only 48 families left, she expects another eight months to a year before recovery is 100 percent complete.

“That means [another whole] typhoon season to secure all the resources. I am still working to do everything in our power to get the work done faster because we can experience [another] typhoon anytime here,” she said.

“While I am optimistic that we are able to help everybody and raise the funds, I wish [aiding those in need] could be faster,” she added.

Since its creation in late 2015, CARE has assisted 745 residents in need of labor or materials and has raised \$2.4 million in resources.

NAVFAC Marianas, SAME host STEM camp

MANGILAO, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas and the Guam post of the Society of Military Engineers hosted their first Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Camp on July 8.

“These young students represent our future,” said NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer Capt. Stephanie Jones, who holds a master’s degree in Civil Engineering. “The STEM Camp is an excellent opportunity for us to give back to the community, to share our experiences and impart knowledge.”

The camp, which was held at the University of Guam, featured fun and educational demonstrations and activities.

NAVFAC Marianas engineers and professional engineers from private-sector firms facilitated STEM-learning

with nearly 70 students in grades five through eight in attendance.

Students were divided into eight “squads” and rotated through 75-minute sessions that included computer coding, photovoltaics, architecture, water filtration, “slime” making, water-bottle rocket making (and launching), drinking-straw bridge building and earthquake structures.

“The kids in our group got to mix materials to make putty, build a bridge out of straws, learn how to use architectural scale, make measurements and draw to scale, and work on computer codes,” said NAVFAC Marianas chief engineer Arlene Aromin, who volunteered as a camp mentor. “It was amazing to see the kids’ eyes light up when they saw the end-product of each activity. I was also very

impressed with the high level of questions, reasoning and responses from these fifth- and sixth-graders.”

Squads were led by active-duty CEC officers and activity sessions were headed by experts from the military, civilian engineers and architects, and UOG pre-engineering students. According to organizers, computer coding seemed to be the most popular session for fifth- and sixth-graders, while the water bottle rocket challenge was most popular among the seventh- and eighth-graders.

“I enjoy working with kids, especially on STEM,” said Aromin. “The earlier we introduce our children to STEM, the more likely they will be interested to pursue STEM in their future careers. After all, these children will be our future engineers and architects.”

Altogether there were 46

volunteers, 17 of whom were active-duty Navy personnel.

“I volunteered because it provides an opportunity to give back what has been given to me, and it ties to things that I am passionate about, like STEM,” said Lt. Hadi Mirsadeghi, assistant public works officer for Naval Base Guam and a camp squad leader. “Events like this promote self-growth and strengthen our community relations.” Mirsadeghi said he approached each activity with energy and enthusiasm. “I try to relate lessons and projects to children’s interests and positive experiences. I want to create an atmosphere of fun where kids can learn to work in teams, make discoveries, be inspired and understand why science is important.”

Organizers said they plan to make the camp an annual multi-day event with their goal to establish long-term mentorships and to pique students’ interest in engineering and other STEM-related professions.



NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer Stephanie Jones teaches students about photovoltaic cells and solar power principles during the STEM Camp at the University of Guam in Mangilao on July 8.

NAVFAC MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

APC

From Page 1

viate and hasten the process of passengers’ entry into the CNMI by the machines’ efficiency and accuracy,” he added.

The installation of the APCs will help designate passengers to the right queues in an orderly and convenient manner.

“Handlers now will be able to direct passengers to the right queues. Whether one is a citizen, a visa-holder, and those with parole authority, there will be an appropriate APC machine upon entry and go through the process expediently,” Toves said.

An APC machine is designed to be user-friendly. It has a language selection, a scanner for passport or visa,

a camera to take the photo of a passenger, and passengers can answer declarations on screen. A receipt comes out, which will be presented with travel documents to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer.

“CPA also plans to address the process of departure flights in the future to help the Transportation Security Administration officers with screening,” Toves said.

Meeting the demands of the rapid growth of CNMI’s economy is the priority of the CPA.

“We are proud to say that the management team actively works with federal agencies and Marianas Visitors Authority to make all of this possible and make entry convenient for residents and visitors in the CNMI without compromising security,” Toves added.

AUTOPSY

From Page 1

tomorrow morning, Saturday.

Baisley said because USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. was subcontracted by CUC, a government agency, DPS is working with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration on the investigation.

The victims, identified as Ricky Quijano, 47, Amid Tapon, 41, and Danilo Paglinawan, 53, all Filipinos, worked for USA Fanter.

Baisley said OSHA is a federal agency that investigates work-related deaths involving government agencies or contractors.

“USA Fanter, CUC, and their employees have been fully cooperating with the investigation,” he said.

Baisley said DPS reported its preliminary findings to the Office of the Attorney General and requested that autopsies on the bodies of the deceased workers be conducted.

After a review of all the known circumstances surrounding the incident, Manibusan approved the autopsy request in order to determine the exact cause and manner of death of the victims, Baisley said.

“The OAG cannot provide any further information at this time because the investigation is ongoing,” he said.

CUC is reportedly conducting a parallel investigation of the incident.

Police said the three workers were killed while doing repair work inside the sewer well at the CUC lift station at Pakpak Beach in San Antonio last Friday, July 7.

DPS said the preliminary findings show that the workers were exposed to high levels of hydrogen sulfide gas inside the well.

DPS said other factors include wastewater presence that was about 6 to 7 inches deep, which may have possibly caused the victims to drown.

SPRINT

From Page 1

own deliberations on the bill and for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to enact it into law.

The House committee was forced to stop deliberations yesterday after an overview of the under-allocated and over-allocated budget submissions in relation to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres’ budget proposal of \$148 million.

“After reviewing all the requests of the departments and the governor’s proposal, our fiscal analyst reported to the committee today that it amounted to a total of \$3 mil-

lion in requests over the governor’s budget proposal,” said House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), adding that some agencies such as the Public School System, Judiciary, Department of Public Safety, and more were asked to submit their highest funding priorities so that secondary funding needs would be addressed through future supplemental appropriations.

In a perfect world where all the departments’ budget requests are granted, the total budget would amount to \$151 million.

Although Demapan recog-

nizes that all of the needs the government agencies asked for are important, only Torres has the power to outline added funds.

“We are working off what Torres is projecting,” he said, adding that the challenge is how to accommodate all the requests within Torres’ proposed budget.

According to Demapan, the goal of the House is to come up with a fiscal year 2018 budget by the end of next week to “... give the Senate time to go through our version and, in the end, give the governor his constitutional window of 20 days to review the budget.”

“The end goal is to act

promptly so that we can ensure that there is no interruption of government services,” he said.

Demapan assured that the body would be focusing on the more critical areas such as education, healthcare, and law enforcement.

“We want to make sure that these services are prioritized because that is the driver of any government’s economy,” he said.

The House Ways and Means Committee would convene next Monday morning to start moving the budget around.

If no budget is passed by Sept. 30, the CNMI government could shut down.

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BEA CABRERA

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By BEA CABRERA

bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Glamour and camping.

Put them together and you have glamping.

A portmanteau, or blend word, glamping is enjoying the great outdoors without sacrificing basic amenities. The concept is becoming popular among travelers and it has become a featured destination around the world and now, on Saipan.

The Glamping Village on Saipan, located along Isa Drive across Laulau Beach, formally opened to the public six months ago.

Hyundo Jang said his father

brought the concept here to Saipan so that residents and tourists can experience a different kind of camping.

"Glamping is very popular in Korea. It is a favorite tent place where families or friends can get together, escape city life, have barbecue, enjoy nature but not being totally stripped of basic amenities. You even have your own bathroom in the tent."

"Saipan is the perfect place to put up a glamping village because of the beautiful and natural surroundings. We are located in between ocean and mountains. We would like to bring people closer to nature without

feeling deprived."

There are different types of glamping around the world: tree houses, barns, farmhouses, teepees, vintage trailers, and more.

The glamping village on Saipan has tents that are almost 30 square meters in size each. Guests are assured of big space where they can move around.

"We would like to change the perspective that people have about staying and sleeping in tents. There is no need to pitch them. It is safe from the natural elements and free of bugs. We have water, electricity, toilets, beds, pillows, and a dining set. All guests have to do is to bring their food and drinks," Jang said.

The village welcomes everyone, Jang said, even individuals who just want to get away.

"We welcome families of all ages who want to have fun and games, cook their own food, listen to music and also individuals who wants to meditate and achieve healing. Most people stay with us one to two days but we offer longer stays," Jang added.

As much as guests can stay and sleep in, glamping is not an alternative to hotel accommodation on island.

"Hotels offer comfort whereas glamping offers experience of adventure so it cannot be considered a guest house or a place similar to a hotel. Our goal for Saipan is to be known not only for its beaches and mountains but also for glamping, an alternative outdoor adventure and making your vacation extraordinary, Jang said.

For more inquiries and reservations, call The Glamping Village at (670) 588-4965



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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 8:00am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Commonwealth Health Center, Conference Room #02.

AGENDA

- I. **Meeting Call to Order**
- II. **Determination of Quorum**
- III. **Review and Adoption of Agenda**
- IV. **Executive Session:** The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
 - A. Resolution of HCPLB Case # 2017-002
- V. **Announcements**
 - A. Next Meeting Date
- VI. **Adjournment of Meeting**

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman



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Former judge: Land was collateral for just \$10K

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former judge said he allowed the use of his land as collateral for just \$10,000 of the Commonwealth Development Authority loan to former Board of Education teacher representative Ambrose Bennett and not for the entire \$61,000 loan.

"I never signed the promissory note of \$61,000 loan to CDA," said former Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama in his opposition to CDA's motion for summary judgment and his

motion for summary judgment against CDA.

He said he was a signatory to the mortgage-loan agreement between Bennett and CDA but his liability under the mortgage extend only to his piece of land that he provided as collateral to Bennett's loan.

He said CDA and Bennett were looking for a \$10,000 collateral so he agreed to use his property as security interest for Bennett's \$61,000 loan from CDA. Lizama said the deal was discussed between him, Bennett, and CDA's Oscar Camacho.

Lizama said the property that he used as collateral to the mortgage is still being preserved and secured.

He said his liability is only to the extent of the security interest he provided.

Lizama said when the loan was executed, he did not sign the promissory note and when the \$61,000 check was issued, it was issued to Bennett.

Therefore, Lizama said, there is no genuine issue of fact that he is liable for the entire \$61,000 loan but rather only to the extent of the collateral he provided.

Lizama also attached to his opposition to CDA's motion Bennett's declaration in which the latter agreed that he asked Lizama if he could help him with a real property worth \$10,000 to be provided as security for his loan and that Lizama agreed.

Bennett agreed with Lizama's declaration that he, Lizama, and CDA's Camacho discussed this matter and they all agreed to this arrangement.

Bennett said he is the borrower of the \$61,000 loan from CDA.

Last December, CDA sued Bennett, his tricycle dealership, and Lizama over alleged non-payment of a \$39,828.49 loan

plus accrued interest, penalty charges, legal fees, and costs.

CDA included Lizama as co-defendant in the lawsuit because it was he who allegedly executed a fee simple mortgage to secure the amounts Bennett and his Lil & Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals owe under a promissory note.

When asked for comments last December, Bennett said he is thankful to CDA for the loan but that it was just unfortunate that the economy was terrible at the time he opened his company.

Bennett said he also had a heart attack and cancer.

Bennett admits the principal amount and is only pro-

testing the interest.

CDA asked the court that the mortgaged property be sold.

According to Dockter in the complaint, on April 1, 2011, CDA extended a \$61,000 loan to Bennett and Lil & Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals.

In return, Bennett and Lil & Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals executed a promissory note, wherein it agreed to repay the loan, plus interest at 7 percent per annum.

Dockter said that Lizama mortgaged to CDA 1,186 square meters of land.

Dockter said Bennett and the company have failed to make the promised monthly payments.



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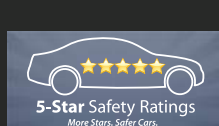
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IN LAWSUIT OVER FAILED HOTEL-CASINO PROJECT

OAG: Ex-House speaker Babauta immune from racketeering lawsuit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former House speaker Oscar M. Babauta insists that the federal court has no jurisdiction over him in the racketeering lawsuit that names him a defendant because he enjoys immunity from lawsuits.

Babauta, through Office of the Attorney General Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dis-

miss him from the racketeering lawsuit filed by Il Hwan Kim and his former company, KSA Corp.

Should the court deny Babauta's motion to dismiss, Kim and KSA should be ordered to provide a more definite statement in their claims against Babauta, Timmons said.

He said the complaint against Babauta are predicated on Babauta's actions before 2010, when the former lawmaker enjoyed legislative im-

munity, and when Babauta was Public Lands secretary, when he had qualified immunity.

Timmons said the complaint is unintelligible in how it relates to Babauta, considering the nature of the claims, the long period of time, and Babauta's changing roles and responsibilities over that time.

He said the complaint is unintelligible as to Babauta due to its "shotgun style."

Last March, Kim and KSA Corp., through counsel Jen-

nifer Dockter, asked the court to issue a default judgment against Babauta's three co-defendants: Hun Jin An, Jeong Eun Tack, and Joann P. Hensley. Dockter said An, Tack, and Hensley continue to fail to file any answer or other responsive pleadings. Dockter said the period in which An, Tack, and Hensley were to answer has expired.

Kim and KSA alleged in their lawsuit that the defendants conspired to steal millions of dollars from him for his hotel and casino project on Saipan.

Aside from the four defendants, Kim and KSA Corp. are also suing former DPL employee Ramon S. Salas and 10

unnamed co-defendants pursuant to Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations Act and other causes of action.

The plaintiffs asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

In Babauta's motion to dismiss on Monday, Timmons said Babauta has been sued in his personal capacity with four other defendants for actions allegedly taken "under color of law" while he held various positions within both the Legislature and Executive Branch of the CNMI government.

Timmons said plaintiffs could have suffered any compensable RICO injury only if Babauta acted on those bribes

and pushed legislation through that harmed plaintiffs.

"Plaintiffs do not allege such facts," Timmons said.

Timmons said absolute legislative immunity bars suit against Babauta.

He said Babauta was a member of the Legislature when the RICO enterprise was allegedly formed, and during the period that plaintiffs allege the bulk of the wrongdoing took place.

While legislative immunity does not protect a legislator from taking bribes, it does prevent a plaintiff from adequately presenting a prima facie case unless the legislator, as a result of the bribe taking, pushed through legislation that harmed the plaintiff.

CUC explains outages

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. explained yesterday that the power interruption on July 13 that lasted from 1:57pm to 2:22pm was due to an accidental discharge of a transformer that led to the loss of energy in four distribution circuits.

The outage affected only the southern part of the island.

"CUC was conducting maintenance work at its power generation facility when an ac-

cidental discharge of a step-up transformer led to the de-energization of four distribution circuits. ...Once the step-up transformer was ready to put back into service, CUC's technical team promptly re-energized the affected distribution circuits," it said.

Meanwhile, the water service outage in As Lito, As Perdido, Airport Road Dandan, Chalan Monsignor Martinez and Kolblerville areas yesterday, July 13, was due to a 6-inch water main break on Airport Road that was identified yesterday afternoon at 3pm.

Dandan Water operations personnel were making the necessary repairs yesterday that was expected to be completed at 6am.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-42-82) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation>). (PR)

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CHURCH 360 AND KAGMAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Free kids', teens' camps this summer

Church 360 will be hosting a free Kids' Camps on July 17-20, from 9am to noon, at Church 360 for ages 4-11.

Kagman Community Church will also be hosting the same Kids' Camps on July 24-27, from 9am to noon.

The first hour of the camps will have the children together, singing songs, watching skits or puppet shows, being part of an interactive Bible lesson, and having a snack.

Then around 10am, campers will take part in a specialty camp. The four specialties offered are basketball, soccer,

arts and crafts, or drama. Each child will choose one camp. They will have two hours to participate in their specialty camp each day.

Church 360 will also be hosting free Teen Sports Clinics on July 17-20, from 2:30pm to 5pm at the Oleai sports complex. This will include soccer for all middle school and high school students. It will also include basketball and softball for all middle school students and high school girls.

Kagman Community Church will also host the same Teen Sports Clinics on July

24-27, from 2:30pm to 5pm at the Kagman II basketball court and field. The Kagman Basketball Clinic will also be open to high school boys.

Camp coaches are all teachers. Two reside here on Saipan and the other five will be coming from Okinawa just for these events.

Transportation is available for the Kagman events to any students in Kagman if they call ahead. Email flybjrew@yahoo.com or call 256-8171 and ask for Joy to pre-register and reserve a spot or for more information. **(PR)**



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Kilili: \$3.8M for airport bridgeways

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Commonwealth Ports Authority would be receiving \$3.8 million to replace three passenger loading bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan

International Airport, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday.

Congress will provide the funding through the Airport

Improvement Program administered by the Federal Aviation Administration.

“Improving the visitor arrival experience is a priority for the Marianas tourist industry,”

Sablan said. “So, continuing robust funding for our airport facilities is a priority for me in Congress.”

The Airport Improvement Program provides about \$3.2 billion annually for runways and taxiways and other capital projects at over 3,300 airports nationwide.

The funds are distributed from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund that is due for reauthorization by Congress by the end of fiscal year 2017. The trust fund is based mainly on a

7.5 percent tax paid on airline ticket purchases.

“Without this federal program that shares the taxes collected throughout our nation,” Sablan said, “small-hub airports, such as [the] Saipan International [Airport], would be hard-pressed to come up with the millions of dollars that are continually needed to keep facilities up-to-date, safe, and in good repair.”

There are 72 small-hub airports in the U.S. They handle about 9 percent of passenger traffic, but receive 14 percent of airport improvement grants. (PR)

House OKs Kilili's anti-trafficking bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) led the Democratic side of the aisle yesterday during debate on a bill he jointly introduced with Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Michigan) aimed at preventing human trafficking.

The Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act, H.R. 2664, “ensures the Department of Labor can effectively train its employees to spot the illegal trade of people—and respond quickly and effectively when cases are detected,” in the words of House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin). Ryan featured the bill on his website. The House passed H.R. 2664 and two other bipartisan bills yesterday, all aimed at preventing human trafficking.

Sablan expressed his appreciation to Walberg, who is chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, where Sablan serves as ranking member for the Democrats. “Mr. Wahlberg and I have found com-

mon ground on a number of important issues facing the American people, and human trafficking is one of them,” Sablan said during the House floor debate.

“We may think that human trafficking is something that occurs in far-off countries. Unfortunately, however, the injustice of human trafficking happens right here in the United States, as well.

“I have seen cases of this terrible scourge, firsthand, in my own district, the Northern Mariana Islands. A number of construction companies lured foreign workers to come to the Marianas with false promises and misrepresentations about pay and conditions. The companies then withheld the employees’ wages and confiscated their passports.”

Walberg, too, identified his home state as a place where human trafficking is occurring.

Sablan gave credit to the U.S. Department of Labor, which has worked to address the problem and helped workers recover their back wages.

“But we need to identify human traffickers and prevent cases like these before they happen,” the Marianas delegate said.

The Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act directs the Department of Labor to work on training its staff to detect human trafficking and sets up a clear course of action for referring suspected cases to the Department of Justice for prosecution.

The bill also requires the Department of Labor to report back to Congress within a year on what progress is being made.

“Congress needs to do more than simply enact programs with lofty goals,” Sablan said. “We also need to build in mechanisms to tell us whether our programs are working as intended.”

According to Polaris, a nonprofit that operates the National Human Trafficking Resources Center Hotline, over 8,000 cases of human trafficking were reported in the U.S. last year, an increase of 35 percent over the year before. (PR)



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NRCS sets grant program deadline

HONOLULU, HI—Pacific Islands agricultural producers and forestry managers who want to address natural resources and increase environmental benefits are encouraged to sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program or the Agricultural Management Assistance Program through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Travis Thomason, PIA NRCS director, announced that Oct. 20, 2017, will be the application deadline in the Pacific.

"Producers can sign up for Farm Bill Programs at any time throughout the year, but to compete for the upcoming funding period, I encourage producers with resource concerns to submit an application by the application deadline," Thomason said.

Many applicants have shown interest in funding to address soil erosion and water quality issues on cropland. However, there are also funding for addressing issues on grazing land operations, confined livestock operations, organic producers, and wildlife habitat improvements, just to name a few.

Producers interested in EQIP or AMA should submit a signed application to the local NRCS field office or submit

it electronically through the Conservation Client Gateway (www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cgate/). Applications submitted by Oct. 20, 2017, will be evaluated by NRCS staff for funding.

Applicants must meet eligibility requirements in order to participate in EQIP or AMA. NRCS field office staff will work with applicants to determine eligibility and answer ranking questions. If an application is ranked high enough to be selected for funding, the applicant will work with the local NRCS field office staff

to develop a contract.

EQIP and AMA are voluntary conservation program available for agricultural producers and forestry managers. Through these programs, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to install conservation practices that reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve grazing lands, improve water and air quality, create wildlife habitat, improve forest health and more. For more information on EQIP or AMA, contact the local NRCS field office or visit www.PIA.nrcs.usda.gov. (PR)

UFO to hold 'Tulong Kapwa'

The United Filipino Organization will lead a voluntary monetary donation campaign to assist the families of the three Filipinos who were accidentally killed in a sewer pump lift station at Pakpak Beach, south of Saipan. The three were identified as Ricky Quijano, Amid Tapon, and Danilo Paglinawan, all Filipino citizens.

However, the initiative is on hold for the moments as the Office of the Honorary Consul to the CNMI is still trying to locate the next of kin of the three victims.

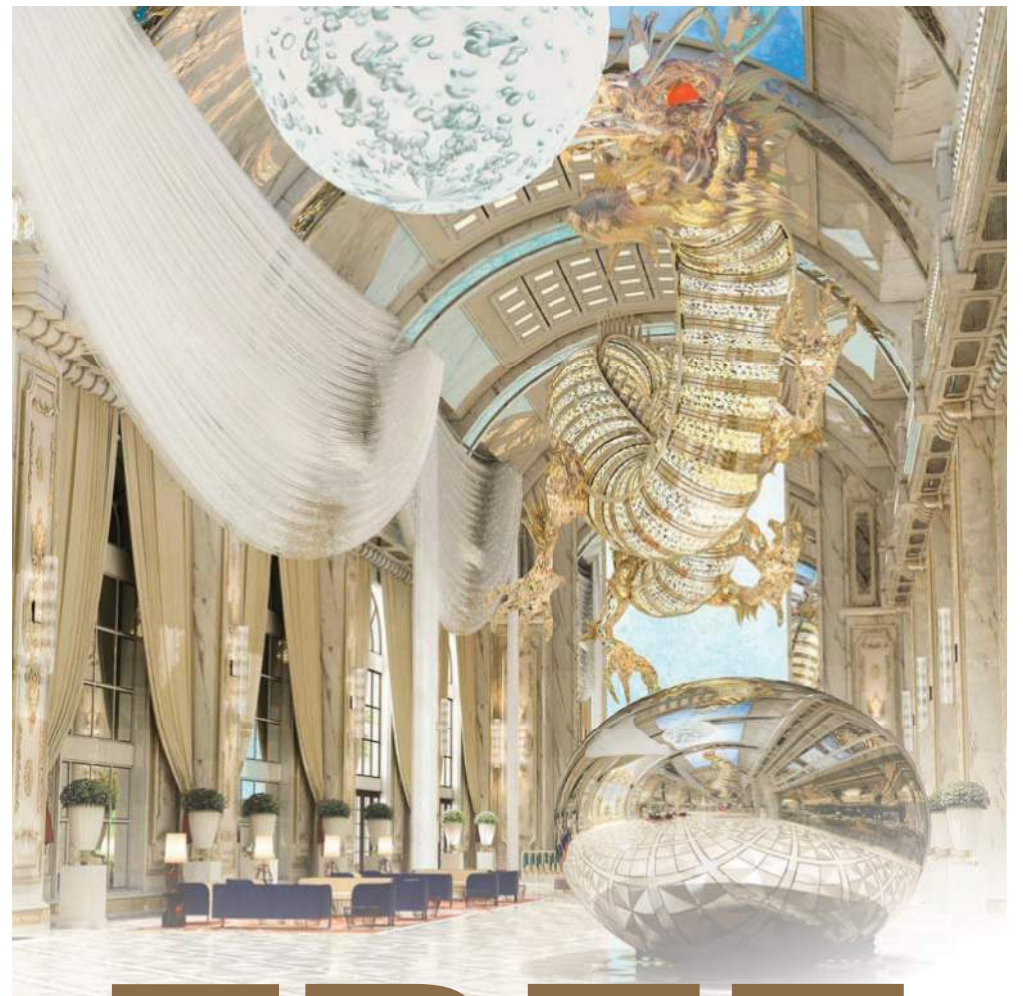
In a statement yesterday, UFO said that the relatives

of the three victims "will be properly informed about the donation campaign."

"Any and all amount raised from the donation drive will directly and equally benefit the families of the three victims," the UFO statement added.

UFO president Marlon Regaton said that as soon as he contacts any of the immediate family members of the three victims, solicitations for voluntary monetary donations will start as soon as possible.

"We will identify places and designate person(s) in several locations as to where donors can drop their voluntary donations," he said. (Saipan Tribune)



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The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting bids for the sale of its 90 KVA Caterpillar Generator Set.

All sealed bids must be on authorized bid forms available at the CDA Office in Oleai, Saipan. Unsigned bids will be considered non-responsive and will not be accepted. All bids will be publicly announced.

Payment shall be U.S. Currency or Certified Bank Draft made payable on demand in U.S. Currency to the Commonwealth Development Authority. Receipt for the full amount of the bid amount must be paid before the property can be removed. Buyer is responsible for the removal of the generator.

Bidders are cautioned to inspect the property. Property is being sold on "As Is" and "Where Is". An inspection period is provided for prospective bidders to determine the true condition and bid accordingly. Bidders are asked to call CDA Administration Department at 234-6245 ext. 304 or 310 for the schedule. The property is located at Hao's Air Conditioning the former Car Quest in Chalan Kanoa.



CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bids or any of them if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CDA.

MYPros names 4 nominees of 'Spotlight Award'

The Marianas Young Professionals, or MYPros, named yesterday the four nominees of this year's Spotlight Award.

The awardee, together with the Young Professional of the Year and Volunteer of the Year, would be named and honored on July 22, when the group hosts its "White Sand Gala" at the Surf Club in Chalan Kanoa. The occasion also marks the group's second anniversary.

The nominees for this year's Spotlight Award are Sheila Babauta, Alfreda Camacho,

Bill Ripple, and Manny Borja.

MYPros celebrated Young Professionals Week from June 26 to June 30, during which details about the awards were announced.

SHEILA BABAUTA

As a native of Saipan, Babauta always knew she would return home after college.

After graduating from Kagman High School a year early, she attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa at 17, focusing on Finance and International Business. During



that time, Sheila volunteered with the deaf community, tutored math at the local college, and worked to spread awareness of the drug epidemic as part of the Hawaii Meth Project. She completed two internships with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management and UMEH Honolulu, and was inducted to three honor societies:

Golden Key International HS, Phi Theta Kappa HS, and Beta Gamma Sigma International HS before graduating with honors in 2011.

Babauta relocated to Seattle to begin a career in Financial Management with Raymond James Financial Services. While there, she continued volunteering at the local food bank and church day care and started her own business, Kaling's Kitchen, where she shared her delicious coconut bread (*titiyas*) in the Pacific Northwest. Kaling's Kitchen

participated in events such as the 2015 CNMI Labor Day Tournament, 2015 Seattle FoodBiz, and 2015 Seattle Shorts Film Festival.

After being away from home for nearly a decade, Babauta returned home in 2016. She is now employed with the CNMI government as the contracting officer's technical representative under the Capital Improvement Program. In her role, she oversees contractual agreements and grant management for major projects such as the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park, Kalabera Cave Improvement, and Garapan Water Quality Restoration and Pavement.

She continues to give back to her community. Babauta serves on the MYPros board as a director. In this role, she co-planned the MYPros March for H.E.R.S. during Women's Month and the Backpack Beach Cleanup at Forbidden Island for Environmental Awareness Month. Additionally, she has been an active participant in Zoning hearings, volunteers for the CNMI Homelessness Coalition Count, and is a member of the Talaabwogh Star Association, supporting their participation in the 2017 Marianas March Against Cancer and CNMI Little League Association.

It has been almost a year since Babauta returned home. She enjoys exploring the island, nourishing her relationships with family and friends, and reading books on self-development. She believes there is still more she can contribute

to her community.

ALFREDA CAMACHO

Camacho serves on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' Cabinet as a special assistant for Public Transportation under the Executive Branch of the CNMI government. She has been



with the agency since July 6, 2015. She is a recent graduate of the inaugural class of the Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter in 2014 mentored by former Honolulu mayor Muliufi Hannemann.

Camacho recently completed the U.S. Graduate School's highly competitive Executive Development Leadership Program, which is "designed to groom exceptionally qualified and skilled government public servants" in Honolulu, Hawaii in June of 2015.

She is a member of MYPros and currently sits as vice chair of the Tsunami Saipan Swim Club.

Camacho attended high school at Grace Christian Academy on Saipan and attained her degrees in Human Resource Management and Business Administration with a minor in Psychology from Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.

In her spare time, Camacho volunteers for swim meet competitions as an official timekeeper, assisting with community events (5K runs, golf tourna-

Continued on Next Page

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From Page 12

ments, etc.), and volunteering her time teaching children English as a Second Language.

Raised by her mother, a Samoan native, and father, a Chamorro native, on Saipan and mother to an 11-year-old son, Camacho's passion hones in on transparent and effective servant leadership alongside public service to help better serve her island.

BILL RIPPLE

After graduating from Mount Carmel High School in 2004, Ripple attended the Northern Marianas College and Hawaii Pacific University before receiving his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from San



Jose State University in 2009. He subsequently attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa and

obtained a master's degree in Civil Engineering (with a geotechnical concentration) in 2011.

During Ripple's undergraduate and graduate school breaks, he returned to the Marianas for internships at several engineering firms. Before he returned home in 2013, he worked at Yogi Kwong Engineers, LLC, in Honolulu as a geotechnical engineer, the University of Hawaii at Manoa as a research and teaching assistant, and URS Corp. in San Jose, Calif., as an environmental engineer.

Since his return, Ripple acquired his license as a professional engineer in the CNMI and California while serving in different capacities. Most recently, he was the chief highway engineer at the CNMI Department of Public Works, where he oversaw the Federal Highway Administration program and assisted in the implementation of improvements to the public infrastructure. Ripple was also a project manager at Hofschneider Engineering, during which he managed public and private engineering projects.

Last year, Ripple started his own engineering firm, Marianas Geotech Services, LLC, to provide specialized services in geotechnical engineering and construction materials testing to the CNMI in response to the recent boom in the construction industry. Since starting MGS, he has had the opportunity to work on new developments, both in the public and private sectors. In the process, Ripple has focused on promoting the training and employment of individuals from the CNMI, and employed three full-time staff supporting MGS' operations and a summer intern

currently pursuing a civil engineering degree.

Ripple says he's fortunate to have had the opportunity to encourage high school students, along with other colleagues, to pursue a career in engineering and return to the CNMI to contribute their talents—imperative to the continued growth and sustainability of our Marianas.

MANNY BORJA

Borja graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering. He returned to the CNMI and began work for the Division of Environmental Quality as a regulatory engineer specializing in erosion control and solid waste management. At DEQ, with the



Earthmoving and Erosion Control Branch, he worked to improve compliance of construction

project stormwater management controls by teaching stormwater workshops to local engineers and contractors, covering the scientific principles of erosion and sediment control. The end goal of the training was to reduce sedimentation, ultimately protecting our island's oceans and coral reefs. Borja is currently employed part-time at Hofschneider Engineering Corp., where he uses his environmental background to aid in the design of environmentally responsible infrastructure.

In 2016, Borja started his own company, STEMed

CNMI, with the intent of promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and careers to the students of the CNMI. Still in its infancy, the company works with schools and individual students to increase access to AP courses, advanced math tutoring, and SAT prep. Borja hopes his company's work will open new doors for the youth of the CNMI in technical fields that have been underrepresented in past years.

Outside of work, Borja volunteers with the Marianas March Against Cancer, where he has served as overall chairperson for two years and treasurer for six years. He has been an administrator for the CNMI Math Court for seven years, wearing several hats as a test writer, scoring administrator, webmaster, and head coach for Team CNMI, which competes annually in the U.S. mainland.

Borja enjoys dancing and has also volunteered as a choreography director with Stellar Marianas for two years, choreographing dance numbers that were performed by the contestants of the Miss Marianas Teen and the Miss Marianas pageants. He also choreographed a flash mob for DEQ's "Our Laolao" social marketing campaign, aimed at inspiring communities to keep Lau Lau Bay litter free. Borja can be seen dancing in his car while stopped at red lights throughout the island.

The MYPros' "White Sand Gala" is open to all and \$40 tickets to next Saturday's event are still available for purchase from any of their events committee members. Email them at mypros.670@gmail.com or visit them on www.facebook.com/mypros670 for more information. (PR)

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Baby with Typical Head Size

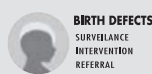


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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

A bolder Saudi Arabia targets another neighbor

Over the past two years, Saudi Arabia has become a source of conflict in the Middle East when it formerly was a quiet, rich, conciliatory force in the region.

It is difficult to imagine a country less well structured to wage war than Saudi Arabia. It is large in area, thinly populated and ruled by an elite family, with most of its workforce consisting of foreigners. It is nonetheless well armed, thanks to its huge oil wealth, which has made it able to buy arms pretty much at will from the United States, the United Kingdom and other suppliers.

In spite of its considerable vulnerabilities, it has been able to wage since March 2015 a fairly high-intensity, destructive war in neighboring Yemen. An estimated 10,000 Yemenis have died, many as a direct or indirect result of Saudi air strikes. More recently, Yemen has been struck with an epidemic of cholera, an estimated 300,000 cases, fueled by the collapse of health care and infrastructure occasioned by Saudi bombing. It could not carry out the bombing without U.S. support through maintenance and aerial refueling.

A newer Saudi enterprise, undertaken after U.S. President Donald J. Trump gave it the green light in a May visit there, probably at the behest of Israel, is to force the Persian Gulf emirate of Qatar to knuckle under to pressure from it, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, all Sunni Muslim-led states like Qatar. They have accused Qatar of supporting terrorism and want it to change its policies radically.

The four states imposed a blockade on Qatar last month and have made 13 demands, including to shut down Qatar media spearhead Al-Jazeera; cease its cooperation with Saudi Arabia's Shiite Muslim enemy, Iran; cut various contacts with the Muslim Brotherhood and links with Palestinian Hamas and Turkey; and end its role as an intermediary among competing Afghanistan elements, including the Taliban.

Qatar has basically told the four to forget about it, unwilling to let them dictate its policies and compromise its sovereignty. In the meantime, Qatar has announced its intention to increase natural gas production, which fuels its wealth, by 30 percent over a period of years.

The United States has a dog in the fight, which makes it astonishing that Trump would have encouraged Saudi Arabia and the other three to go after Qatar. Some 10,000 American forces, plus aircraft and munitions, are in Qatar, operating from a base that also serves as headquarters for the U.S. regional war against the Islamic State. It is also the case that Qatar's current role in the Middle East is not in general inconsistent with America's goals in the region.

The encouraging part is that Qatar is so far standing up to Saudi demands. If those demands and the blockade are stepped up, Qatar and its friends are fully capable of striking back at Saudi Arabia and its three client states. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson now is trying to mediate the dispute. War over Qatar would be unfortunate. It then would be added to Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen on the list of expensive, unnecessary Middle East scraps in which the United States is somehow involved.

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Zen and the art of time zones

Four weeks ago, in this space, we put on our flying scarves and took a jetsetter's look at the phonetic alphabet. We wound up by noting that "Zulu," the phonetic term for the letter "Z," is also shorthand for Greenwich Mean Time. GMT is rooted in the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England. It's the reference point for zero degrees longitude and it serves as the reference point for the world's time zones. Navigation and time zones go together like peanut butter and jelly if you do it right, or like payday Friday and car crashes if someone messes things up.

If you're on Saipan and doing business internationally, you often have to describe how to reckon local time to people who have never even seen Saipan on a map.

First of all, we have to stir the alphabet soup a bit. In addition to GMT, you might also encounter the term "UTC," which stands for Coordinated Universal Time; I think the abbreviation doesn't match the term because it's really a French phrase. Anyway, whatever it came from, it's just a scientifically-refined version of GMT. It has something to do with atomic clocks, if you're wondering. Anyway, "GMT," "UTC," and "Zulu" are the same thing for our purposes.

When it comes to time differences, there are probably more misunderstandings than understandings on this count, especially when dealing with the U.S. mainland. I've seen some business disputes boil up out of this stuff because of broken deadlines. The biggest dispute I was in pertained to a broken deadline to receive a critical (and expensive) aircraft component. I don't know who was really at fault in the matter, but finding fault doesn't solve a problem when your aircraft is sitting on the ground, gathering dust, instead of flying in the sky making profits.

When it comes to the time zone thing, one approach that is popular, but not very effective, is to have your most inarticulate clerk explain to some other clerk in a distant land how to reckon local time.

Good luck with that. Not only won't they agree on what time it is, they won't even agree on what day it is.

I have a three-step approach to this problem.

First of all, I say that "Saipan's time is GMT plus 10 hours."

If I'm dealing with pilots, mariners, foreign-exchange traders, or other geographically-savvy people, this is entirely sufficient. Problem solved.

On the other hand, if I'm dealing with someone who might not be entirely comfortable with the GMT realm, I'll add a second step by noting, "If you don't want to mess with GMT, then you can consider that Saipan's time is Tokyo time plus one hour."

This leads me to my third step, and this is the most elegant part

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.



of the process: I shut up.

After all, open-ended discussions about what time it is on Saipan when it's 5pm in Peoria aren't going to get you very far. These things go around in circles.

On a more abstract note, I'll offer an observation that applies not only to time zones but also to the overall concept of navigation: Many people see themselves as the reference for the outside world's elements. This is subjective. This is intuitive. This is a great way to remain perpetually lost.

By contrast, navigators, and, likewise, those who juggle time zones, understand that the only meaningful way to consider their positions is to reckon how those positions are situated relative to an outside object, which is to say, a landmark. GMT, time-wise, serves as this landmark. GMT is the basic reference, not us. We work around GMT, it doesn't work around us.

If you want to get downright philosophical about it, we can note that this brings us to the ancient split between the subjective and the objective outlooks.

Modern technology, of course, appeals to the subjective impulse. The "I'm the center of the world" outlook meshes with the way GPS displays are typically configured. On more than one occasion I've been a car passenger when some feckless driver, in a slack-jawed trance, is blindly following the magical GPS screen and gets utterly lost in the process.

Likewise, if you wind up having to discuss a time-zone calculation, or anything else in just about any realm I can think of, you might be met with rolling eyes as someone snips, "There's an app for that." Well, true enough. There are certainly many very clever apps out there. For me, though, while technology makes a great tool, I'm not willing to let it supplant my basic connection to the physical world.

Anyway, where were we? Oh yeah, trying to figure out what time it is. Well, I do know that it's Friday night. I can't tell the drunk drivers from the screen-watchers these days, so I'm just going to keep off the roads and hunker down in the kitchen with a peanut butter sandwich. It is, therefore, the best time of all: dinner time.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Need for foreign workers

The lack of a timely response from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on the needs of both the CNMI and Guam for foreign workers boggles the mind.

Major projects are either rolling out the runway or are in the wings ready to take off. Unfortunately, the dead silence of DHS leaves both jurisdictions quizzing how to deal with it when the labor part of the equation is missing.

The indecision raises the disquieting question whether the feds have decided against conventional warfare expansion in favor of technologically advanced nuclear missile capability. The latter makes a lot of sense but does it mean abandoning base expansion on Guam and the NMI?

The rogue country successfully fired an ICBM in recent days. It looks like Trump and allied countries can't see into the tight space of diplomacy and couldn't figure out how to keep King Jong Un' from firing another of his toy bullets. But he knows the U.S. could eliminate him like it did Osama Bin Laden.

It piques my curiosity why the silence when the U.S. Congress has already approved more funds for the military buildup on Guam. Does DHS know something it isn't sharing with us? Is the buildup for the NMI moot now?

We get a bit edgy in that the NMI waited for more than three decades to see military presence kick-start the local economy on Tinian. It hasn't happened and DoD isn't necessarily upfront with its actual plans. It now seems a plan of quiet deferment in perpetuity. If there's no plan at all, then say so. This allows leadership to dig into alternative plans of investments. It's our livelihood!

Evacuation: The riddle of meeting local labor requirements with U.S. citizens turns into a continuing conundrum. For instance, nearly eight years ago, more than 3,000 of our people evacuated the islands in search of opportunities abroad.

The lack of opportunities is apparent and evacuation was the only way out. Even homesteaders simply left everything behind! Local numbers took a nosedive! The relocation of families continues. It would translate into a serious inadequacy meeting current and future business expansion in terms of labor needs.

The lack of opportunities at home has metastasized among

scholars and families here and abroad. Most would be humming and wondering about *green, green grass of home* once they've settled down in their new place of opportunity across the country.

The obvious indecision by DHS has sent everybody on this side of the Pacific to the deep valley of incoherence trying to second-guess an answer. But there aren't any forthcoming, is there?

Landownership: The NMDC would ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the Ninth Circuit's decision on the John Davis case—protection of his right to vote—including land issues here.

But it was disappointed when the AG intercepted, saying the group's attorney doesn't have any standing to bring the issue to the U.S. Supreme Court for review. It argues that it (AG's Office) is the only constitutionally appointed chief legal counsel of the NMI for all government instrumentalities and public corporations.

It raises pertinent query whether the AG has stepped in to represent the NMDC case. Or is there a likely agreeable approach to ensure the due process rights of the group isn't denied permanently?

Meanwhile, the House must return to revisit Article 3, Section 11 on how the Legislature could amend constitutional provisions. I think it requires a joint session with three-fourths of the members of each house present and voting. It's procedural oversight.

But it's encouraging the spirit and conviction to protect indigenous landownership recognized by international law. The issue, though, is arguable from both a cultural and individual ownership standpoint.

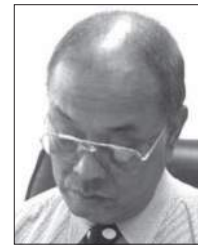
I don't know how far would the U.S. Supreme Court would go to protect the rational argument that the Covenant is a "political" document and not race-based. I know the history in the surrender of NMI sovereignty in exchange for control of our land. But would it meet constitutional muster with the U.S. Supreme Court? It remains to be seen.

Payday Friday? Working on an island economy is woefully difficult. It begins with the inevitable premise: lack of marketable resources though seawater rich.

Perhaps this explains why nobody wants to sit down to explore

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



the issue beyond business as usual or conventional wisdom. So the exit is rather quick: embrace what's known in economics as "temperamental" growth and don't even look back. This seems the answer for the "solutions driven" team.

Reminds one a familiar chorus known as "indigenous rights." We're inundated with indigenous government agencies where all financial resources are spent on bureaucratic salaries. None for programs! Occasionally, you hear vacuous intramural speeches that feed the ego, nothing else.

You take them to task on their performance and they instantly wither with tails tucked between their legs. There's simply the lack of focus, faith and conviction to do it right. Is it really that difficult using your cranial facilities or black and white television sets? It boggles the mind! And so we seem to have robots in government walking around asking, "Is today payday Friday?"

Perennial issues: As the NMI hints at the gubernatorial contest next year, it would be interesting to see what issues have turned into masticated pulp—chewing heedlessly—where articulation fails and substituted with tons of *biba*."

Would we hear new ideas or would the discussion instantly sink into perennial favorites picked because though they did nothing about it, it's hip regurgitating the same old chew? Some of the old narratives would have to be handed their retirement. Let's see the power of ideas!

Chamorro: I learned from Magoo that St. Peter isn't fond of Chamorros. He heard him saying, "You answer 'I know' whenever someone says something, including most everything you don't know!" The genealogical association is an instant ticket to hell!

Training in media literacy in order

In this era of fake news, covfefe, and biased advocacy journalism outlets like Fox News and MSNBC, how can news consumers surf through this wave of information that bombards us daily?

When I ask my students whether they've received training in media literacy, the response is often shrugs and blank stares.

A 2016 Stanford University study showed that middle school, high school, and college students had difficulty judging the credibility of online information and are frequently duped by fake news, biased sources, and sponsored content.

Given this lack of understanding, educators are pushing to improve news, media, and bias literacy. The National Association for Media Literacy Education, located in New Jersey, publishes a literacy education journal and sponsors a Media Literacy Week every November. The Center for Media Literacy, in California, offers guidance, information, and teaching methods, including a MediaLit Kit to promote critical thinking about media. Media Literacy Now empowers grassroots efforts by providing policy and advocacy information, expertise, and resources to develop state laws that implement media literacy education in schools.

A growing number of universities are dedicating themselves to the cause.

The State University of New York at Stony Brook created

the Center for News Literacy in 2006. It developed curricula for high schools and the public, started a high school teacher training program, and organizes national conferences on news literacy. After summer training sessions at Stony Brook, the principal and staff at a Coney Island public middle school implemented a program to encourage students to become smarter readers and news analysts. Elements of Stony Brook's courses have spread to dozens of campuses in America and overseas.

According to NAMLE, other schools with media literacy programs include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Texas, University of California at Berkeley, University of Pennsylvania, University of Southern California, Temple University, University of Massachusetts, and New York University. Temple also has a Center for Media Literacy and Information.

State governments are also taking the issue seriously. A few months ago, media literacy legislation was introduced in California's state Senate. The bill would require the state superintendent of public instruction and the State Board of Education to convene a committee of educators, librarians, parents, students, and media experts to identify best practices and create guidelines and recommendations on how to teach students to be skeptical,

By **LARRY ATKINS**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Larry Atkins teaches journalism at Temple and Arcadia Universities and is the author of Skewed: A Critical Thinker's Guide to Media Bias. Readers may email him at larryL-Tatkins@aol.com.



informed news consumers and how to recognize fake news. Last March, Washington state passed a digital citizenship and media literacy law. Similar legislation is pending in several other states, and state Rep. Tim Brigg has announced plans to introduce a requirement for media literacy in first through 12th grade in the commonwealth.

Media literacy provides skills essential for an educated society, and serves as a life raft to save us from drowning in a vast sea of competing ideas. Now people must become aware of the concept and demand that schools teach their children well on this topic. The media should also promote media literacy education and its importance so that people don't respond with shrugs and have blank stares when they hear the term.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Do you want to protect the ocean?

Thank you for taking the time to read all of my letters this week. And thank you for all your comments, both online and in person. I hope I have made a strong argument that the best use of our far northern resources is conservation, as our founding fathers laid out in our Constitution. I don't want to see our waters opened up to industrial fishing. Do you?

I end this series of letters by asking the readers of this paper whether or not they think we should protect the ocean? Do you? Should we protect the ocean, or should we not protect our ocean?

I think the best use of our natural resources is for our local

people, and I hope that we never open up our waters to foreign fishermen. Those fish are important to our people and our culture, and we need them for ourselves.

I also recognize that we live under a system defined by the U.S. Constitution and the Covenant. Our islands are surrounded by ocean, and some of that ocean is managed by our local government, while most of it is managed by the federal government.

Which brings us back to the original question: Do you want to protect the ocean? If the answer is yes, we need to do so under the system in which we are governed today.

Just because you think the local government should control 200 miles of ocean does not mean that it does. So if you think the ocean currently under federal management should be protected, we need to figure out how to protect it under the federal system.

This is an ongoing conversation for our people and I look forward to continuing it for the benefit of our kids and grandkids.

Ignacio V. Cabrera
I Agag, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲89° ▼78°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼78°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.

▲88° ▼78°

MONDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.

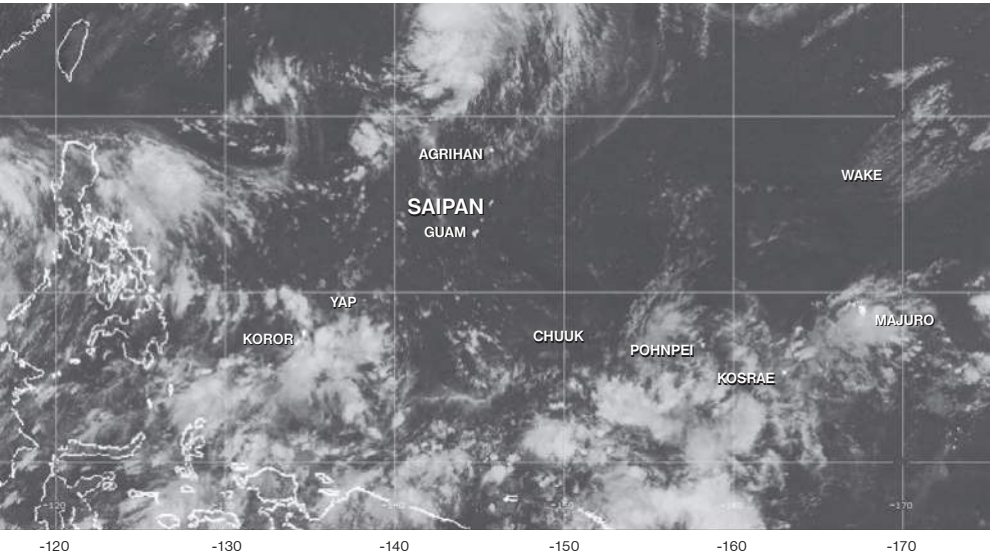
▲88° ▼78°

TUESDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.

▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:27 AM, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Water vapor imagery depicts relatively dry air over the area. Satellite imagery shows only a few small showers over the Marianas. Models agree with keeping shower activity low and expect mostly sunny skies and isolated showers over the Marianas today. Little will change through Friday. Trade-wind convergence and an increase in deep-layer moisture, plus a favorable upper-level wind pattern will bring a slight chance of thunderstorms Friday night through Wednesday. The same factors will also produce mostly cloudy skies though the weekend and until at least Wednesday. Models hint that there may be periods of scattered Saturday through Wednesday. Because the models are not consistent in their placement of the showers and the timing of scattered showers, left out of the forecast for now.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲▼°F
Auckland	Sunny	55° / 43°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	91° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	54° / 39°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	73° / 68°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	88° / 75°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	73° / 54°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Rome	Sunny	93° / 72°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	97° / 75°
San Francisco	Windy	66° / 54°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	87° / 73°

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:28 AM	LOW TIDE		1.00
10:14 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.66
5:11 PM	LOW TIDE		0.05
11:59 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.94

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:56 AM	10:33 PM
Saturday	-	10:48 AM	11:16 PM
Sunday	-	11:41 AM	11:59 PM
Monday	-	12:36 PM	-
Tuesday	12:45 AM	1:33 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 16, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1	JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4	JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6 via GUM	PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	U042	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
U043	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	U042	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	U042	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
				U042	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
				U042	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
				UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Hotel robbery

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public’s help for a robbery incident that occurred at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan beach in Garapan on Wednesday night, July 12, 2017.

At about 9:53pm, police responded to the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and met with security and the victim, a 33-year-old Korean female. Her bag was snatched by the suspect—described as medium built, possibly a local male, wearing a beige T-shirt and red baseball cap.

The victim was talking with her friend and sitting on a beach chair under a hut at the Fiesta Resort beach area. The suspect approached her, pushed her of her seat, and grabbed her yellow bag containing her Korean passport, a hotel room key, and about \$100 cash.

The suspect fled north in the direction of the Hyatt Regency Saipan and the victim and her friend chased the suspect. The victim lost sight of the suspect who was last seen running toward the Hyatt lobby. The victim contacted security, who called the police. No one was injured.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use the Crime Stoppers website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. *(Crime Stoppers)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Power outage on Isa Drive on Saturday

There will be a scheduled power interruption along Isa Drive in San Vicente on Saturday, July 15, 2017, from 5:30am to 10:30am to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace four wooden power poles with concrete poles. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). *(PR)*

Youth fishing derby on Rota on July 23

The Rota Mayor’s Office will be hosting a youth fishing derby at the Teteto Beach on Sunday, July 23, from 9am to 4pm. Interested participants must fill out application forms at the Rota Mayor’s Office. Participants must be ages 5 to 8 and 9 to 12. There will be an orientation at the Teteto Pavilion on Sunday, July 23, at 8:30am. Cash prizes will be given to the participant who collects the most number of fish. Prizes are \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place. *(MVA)*

Jehovah’s Witnesses host convention

Jehovah’s Witnesses is inviting the public to a convention with the theme, “Don’t Give Up!” on July 14-16 at their Kingdom Hall auditorium in Gualo Rai. Admission is free and collections will not be taken. The convention begins at 9:20am daily. There will be an immersion baptism at noon on Saturday. For more information, visit jw.org. *(PR)*

MyPROS to host July 22 gala


The Marianas Young Professionals will host a White Beach Gala at the Surf Club on July 22. Tickets can be purchased from any Events Committee member. Tickets previously bought are still honored for the new date. For more information, check out MY-Pros Facebook page at facebook.com/mypros670/. *(PR)*

Ongoing gambling survey

The Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation Program is conducting a “Gambling Survey” to gather baseline data in order to help determine if a further comprehensive screening tool or assessment is needed in regards to gambling in the CNMI. An online version of the survey can be taken at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FDKXYNH>. The last day to complete the online survey is this Saturday, July 15, 2017. *(PR)*

MINA sea trash contest

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance will again conduct a marine debris raffle draw at the 33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 15 and 16. Participants must find at least one piece of trash, which is man-made, found in the ocean, and collected while they are fishing in the derby. The trash will have to be turned in to the MINA booth upon docking to receive a raffle ticket. Raffle tickets are limited to one for each individual qualifying fisherman. For more information, email MINA at [minaloutreach@gmail.com](mailto:minaoutreach@gmail.com) or call 233-REEF. *(PR)*



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES REPLACEMENT**, SAIPAN, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-87/XX.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *“Passenger Loading Bridges Replacement for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-87”* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., Friday, JULY 21, 2017**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to removal and replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 2, 3, and 6 at the Saipan International Airport with new apron-drive bridges including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY (580) calendar days if awarded all three bridges**. Duration may adjust based on funding availability which will determine number of bridges to be replaced.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A CD-ROM containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier’s check or U.S. postal money order payable to the “Commonwealth Ports Authority”.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2017**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid meeting. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the CD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.


All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-24 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran’s Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.


FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: June 9, 2017



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



PUBLIC NOTICE

OF CUC’S CONDITIONALLY APPROVED WATER AND WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN TO BE PRESENTED DURING A PUBLIC MEETING ON AUGUST 15, 2017

This is a notice of a public meeting to be held by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) for the purpose of presenting and discussing the Water and Wastewater Master Plan which has been conditionally approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”).

CUC will conduct a public meeting on **August 15, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the **CNMI Multi-Purpose Center** located on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, to provide information on and to receive discussion and public comment related to CUC’s conditionally approved Water and Wastewater Master Plan.

Pursuant to Section III.B., Paragraph 50 of Stipulated Order Number One for Preliminary Injunctive Relief (“SO1”), filed under United States District Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. 08-0051, CUC is required to develop and submit for EPA approval a comprehensive drinking water and wastewater master plan (“Master Plan”) to address the drinking water and wastewater systems needs in the CNMI for the next 20 years. The Master Plan’s requirements and scope of interest is set forth further under Sections III.B1, B2, B3 and B4 of SO1.

Copies of the conditionally approved Master Plan and SO1 are available in its entirety for review for at least the next 45 days on CUC’s website at: <http://www.cucgov.org>. Please click on “Draft Water & Wastewater Master Plan” to view or download the documents. A written copy of the Master Plan will also be available for inspection at the CUC Administrative Office: Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office. CUC will also be providing copies to the Joeten-Kiyu Library and the Northern Marianas College Library during this time.

Written comments are also being solicited and can be mailed to CUC at P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to: CUC Administrative Office: Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office.

Business

Face scans for US citizens flying abroad stir privacy issues

HOUSTON (AP)—If the Trump administration gets its way, U.S. citizens boarding international flights will have to submit to a face scan, a plan privacy advocates call a step toward a surveillance state.

The Department of Homeland Security says it's the only way to successfully expand a program that tracks nonimmigrant foreigners. They have been required by law since 2004 to submit to biometric identity scans—but

to date have only had their fingerprints and photos collected prior to entry.

Now, DHS says it's finally ready to implement face scans on departure—aimed mainly at better tracking visa overstays but also at tighten-

ing security.

It says it won't keep the face scans of U.S. citizens, but privacy advocates are skeptical and say Homeland Security is overstepping its authority.

“Congress authorized

scans of foreign nationals. DHS heard that and decided to scan everyone. That's not how a democracy is supposed to work,” said Alvaro Bedoya, executive director of the Center on Privacy and Technology at Georgetown University.

Trials begun under the Obama administration are underway at six U.S. airports—Boston, Chicago, Houston, Atlanta, Kennedy Airport in New York City and Dulles in the Washington, D.C., area. DHS aims to have high-volume U.S. international airports engaged beginning next year.

During the trials, passengers will be able to opt out. But a DHS assessment of the privacy impact indicates that won't always be the case.

“The only way for an individual to ensure he or she is not subject to collection of biometric information when

traveling internationally is to refrain from traveling,” says the June 12 document on the website of Customs and Border Protection, which runs the DHS program.

John Wagner, the Customs deputy executive assistant commissioner in charge of the program, confirmed in an interview that U.S. citizens departing on international flights will submit to face scans.

Wagner says the agency has no plans to retain the biometric data of U.S. citizens and will delete all scans of them within 14 days. However, he doesn't rule out CBP keeping them in the future after going “through the appropriate privacy reviews and approvals.”

A CBP spokeswoman, Jennifer Gabris, said the agency has not yet examined whether what would require a law change

Trump says he'll be 'angry' if Senate health care bill flops

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said Wednesday he will be “very angry” if the Senate fails to pass a revamped Republican health care bill and said Majority Leader Mitch McConnell must “pull it off,” intensifying pressure on party leaders laboring to win over unhappy GOP senators and preserve the teetering measure.

Trump's remarks came a day before McConnell, R-Ky., planned to release his revised legislation to a closed-door meeting of

GOP senators. The new legislation would keep most of the initial Medicaid cuts and makes other changes aimed at nailing down support, but internal GOP disputes lingered that were threatening to sink it.

With all Democrats set to vote no, McConnell was moving toward a do-or-die roll call next week on beginning debate, a motion that will require backing from 50 of the 52 GOP senators.

Conservative Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said Wednesday he would oppose the motion

and moderate Republican Susan Collins of Maine seemed all but sure to do the same—leaving McConnell with zero margin for error to sustain his party's goal of toppling President Barack Obama's health care law. Several other GOP senators were holdouts as well, leaving McConnell and his lieutenants just days to win them over or face a major defeat.

In a White House interview conducted Wednesday for the Christian Broadcasting Network's “The 700 Club,” Trump said it was

time for action by congressional Republicans who cast scores of votes “that didn't mean anything” to repeal the 2010 law while Obama was still president.

“Well, I don't even want to talk about it because I think it would be very bad,” he said when network founder Pat Robertson asked what would happen if the effort fails. “I will be very angry about it and a lot of people will be very upset.”

Asked if McConnell would succeed, Trump said, “Mitch has to pull it off.”

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP-17-CHCC/WIC-18

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 14, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM
RFP OPENING DATE: July 14, 2017 TIME: 1:00 PM

**“JANITORIAL CLEANING SERVICES
WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC).
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED – UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP-17-CHCC/WIC-19

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 14, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM
RFP OPENING DATE: July 14, 2017 TIME: 2:00 PM

**TWO (2) MULTI-FUNCTION COPIER EQUIPMENTS
WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC).
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED – UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-TDLNR-174 - CIF TINIAN

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 02, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF A UTILITY TRACTOR WITH 3 ATTACHMENTS
FOR TINIAN DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ GUILLERMO C. BORJA
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD, TDLNR

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE
“This notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC”
July 14, 2017

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, Ignacio Perez, wish to announce that the Program Year 2017 Annual Action Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Action Plan encompasses applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG) Programs in the Commonwealth. Comments may be directed to Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner, NMHC Central Office, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for the comment period is July 31, 2017, no later than 4:30 p.m.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact Mr. Jacob Muna for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.

/s/ **Zenie P. Mafnas**
Deputy Corporate Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/MCHB-H.O.M.E-17

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 21, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM
RFP OPENING DATE: July 21, 2017 TIME: 1:00 PM

**“OFFICE SPACE
MCHB/H.O.M.E
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED – UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DLNR/DFW-178

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 14, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) RUGGED TABLETS WITH GPS FOR THE
DLNR – DIV. OF FISH & WILDLIFE – WILDLIFE RESTORATION”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DPW/ASD-175

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 14, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF A CLASS “H” VEHICLE – 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK (4 DOORS) FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DPW/SWM-176

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 14, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF A CLASS “H” VEHICLE – 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK (4 DOORS) FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Nation

FBI nominee rejects Trump claim: Russia probe no witch hunt

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump’s pick to lead the FBI broke with the president in key areas Wednesday, rejecting the idea that an investigation into possible coordination between Russia and the Trump election campaign is a “witch hunt” and promising not to cave to any pressure from a White House that has challenged boundaries with the nation’s top law enforcement agency.

Christopher Wray, the former high-ranking Justice Department official whom Trump nominated last month, told senators at his confirmation hearing that he would never let politics get in the way of the bureau’s mission. And he said he “sure as heck” would not offer a pledge of loyalty to the president.

Asserting his independence, he said, “My loyalty is to the Constitution and the rule of law. Those have been my guideposts throughout my career, and I will continue to adhere to them no matter the test.”

Wray’s responses seemed to satisfy both Democrats and Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee, many of whom signaled their support for him.

Wray, 50, would inherit the FBI at a particularly challenging time given Trump’s abrupt dismissal of James Comey, who was admired within the bureau. Yet the hearing, the first public window into Wray’s views since his selection, was largely devoid of fireworks in keeping with what friends and supporters have described as the nominee’s low-key, disciplined style.

His reserved approach could bode well for the agency at a time when its work has been thrust into the center of a political maelstrom.

But, Wray said, “Anybody who thinks that I would be pulling punches as FBI director sure doesn’t know me very well.”

After Trump dismissed Comey on May 9, the ex-FBI



AP
FBI Director nominee Christopher Wray testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, July 12, 2017, at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

director said that the president had asked him to pledge his loyalty during a dinner at the White House months earlier. He also said Trump had encouraged him to end an investigation into the former national security adviser, Michael Flynn. Wray said he got

no demand for personal loyalty, nor would he pledge it.

The back-and-forth with lawmakers focused extensively on the Russia investigation, with Wray repeatedly voicing his respect for Robert Mueller, the former FBI director selected in May as the special

counsel to oversee the probe.

Trump has repeatedly derided that investigation and other probes, using such words as “hoax” and “witch hunt.” But Wray said he would reject any efforts to interfere with Mueller’s work.

“I do not consider Director Mueller to be on a witch hunt,” he said under questioning from Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

He also said he had no reason to doubt the assessment of intelligence agencies that Russia had interfered in the U.S. election through hacking, a conclusion of which Trump has been dismissive.

And when asked about emails released a day earlier showing that Donald Trump Jr. was willing to take help from Russia during the campaign, he said any foreign efforts to meddle in an election should be reported to the FBI rather than accepted.

Wray, who most recently has enjoyed a lucrative legal career at an international law firm, also faced questions about his work as a Justice Department official in the Bush administration. He served the government at a time when harsh interrogation techniques were approved within the department for terror suspects captured overseas, though Wray said he was never involved in signing off on those methods.

Although Trump as a candidate professed support for waterboarding, Wray said

he considered torture to be wrong and ineffective. “The FBI is going to play no part in the use of any techniques of that sort,” he said.

He also was questioned about his relationships with Comey and Mueller. Trump allies have said Mueller’s closeness to Comey shows he can’t lead an unbiased probe. But Trump nominated Wray despite his having worked with both men.

Lawmakers intend to question Trump campaign chairman

WASHINGTON (AP)—The scope of congressional investigations into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential contest came into sharper focus on Wednesday as lawmakers said they intended to question the former chairman of the Trump campaign and to determine whether Russian social media “trolls” were connected to Trump’s election efforts.

The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to question former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and will subpoena him if necessary, according to the panel’s Republican chairman, Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa. He said he and the committee’s top Democrat, Dianne Feinstein of California, have agreed to try to bring Manafort before the panel for questioning about the government’s enforcement of a law requiring registration of foreign lobbyists. Feinstein’s office confirmed that they plan to question him.

Manafort would certainly also be asked about his participation in a Trump Tower meeting last June with President Donald Trump’s eldest son and son-in-law, where the purpose was to hear potentially damaging information about Hillary Clinton from a Russian lawyer.

Manafort disclosed the meeting in a package of information he provided to the Senate and House intelligence committees, who have been investigating potential coordi-

nation between Russia and the Trump campaign, as is Robert Mueller, the former FBI director appointed by the Justice Department as the special counsel.

“Obviously it would be appropriate for anybody to get into anything that went on at that meeting, and he was at that meeting,” Grassley told Iowa reporters.

A person close to Manafort said that he hasn’t yet received a letter from the committee about a possible interview. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss Manafort’s private interactions with the committee.

Separately, Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee,

said his panel wants to look at the use of Russian social media “trolls” and whether they were connected to the Trump election campaign. That concern is “certainly something we want to explore,” along with the Trump campaign’s data analytics, Schiff said. Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, oversaw digital strategy for the campaign.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
SIXTEENTH TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
San Jose Village, Tinian MP 96952 CNMI USA
Tel. (670) 433-3470 Email: tinianmunicipalcouncil@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1CMC § 9901), The Honorable Antonio Sn Borja, Chairman of the Tinian Municipal Council announces that the 16th Tinian Municipal Council will convene the following Regular Session on Monday, July 17, 2017 @ 5:00 pm at the Tinian Municipal Council Conference Room.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. EAGI Committee Hearing: Tinian Cockfighting Board: Allen M. Perez
 - B. Public Comments
- VI. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Antonio Sn Borja
Chairman

RENE C. HOLMES
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950-1127
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner, Thomas Castro.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE MATTER OF : Civil Action No.: 17-0153
THE ESTATE OF :
MARGARITA SANCHEZ : **NOTICE OF HEARING AND**
CASTRO, : **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**
Deceased. : Date: August 10, 2017
: Time: 9:00 a.m.
: Judge: Honorable
: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENTS OR OF THEIR ESTATE
Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Thomas Castro, has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. P. 15.
A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **August 10, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 220A**, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.
Pursuant to NMI R. of Prob. P. 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Rene C. Holmes at the above indicated address. Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.
SO NOTICED this 11th day of July, 2017.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT
CNMI Superior Court

THOMPSON LAW, LLC
Colin M. Thompson, F0221
2nd Floor, J.E. Tenorio Bldg.
PMB 917 Box 10001
Saipan MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 233-0777
Facsimile No.: (670) 233-0776

Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR:
YUKIANA M. DELA CRUZ and SHERJEAN M. DELA CRUZ.
Minor Children,
By: The Biological Parents
MANASES T. DELA CRUZ and VIOLETA M. DELA CRUZ.
Petitioners.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Court will hear Petitioner’s Petition for Appointment of General Guardianship for the above matter is set on August 24, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.
SO ENTERED this 6th day of June, 2017.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Petitioner,) FCD-DI-CIVIL
Johnny S. Aldan) ACTION NO.
) 17-0269
vs.)
Patricia T. Obispo) SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is As Matuis, P.O. Box 501893, CK as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the clerk of Courts for filing.
Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.
Dated this 8th day of June, 2017.
/s/ Clerk of Court

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Plaintiff, Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
BANK OF GUAM,) Civil Action
Plaintiff,) No. 14-0137
vs.)
MERCEDES T. TEIGITA) NOTICE OF
and THE ESTATE OF) AUCTION
JOSE L. TAITANO,) ON THE
Defendant) MORTGAGED
PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 01st day of February, 2017, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 11th day of August, 2017 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 022 B 30.
Lot No. 022 B 30, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 022 B 01 the original of which was recorder 10 FEB 83 as Document No. 16506 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) to reject any and all bids.
2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758 CK Saipan, MP 96950 or Email: rttlaw@optcom.com.
3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier’s check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title and interest in the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this cause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 20th day of June, 2017.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Asia

Missile Wars: Where N. Korea stands after ICBM launch

TOKYO (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is on the cusp of having something his father and grandfather could only dream of—the ability to unleash a nuclear attack on the United States.

For anyone paying attention, the test launch of his country's first intercontinental ballistic missile on the Fourth of July came as little surprise.

Kim has been racing to develop better and longer-range missiles and vowed in his New Year's address this would be the year of the ICBM. He made good on that vow with the launch of the "Hwasong-14."

But that isn't all he's been doing.

Here's a quick primer.

CLOSING THE GAP:

North Korea's newest missile is called the Hwasong-14. Hwasong means "Mars."

Experts believe the two-stage, liquid-fuel missile gives Kim the capability of reaching most of Alaska and possibly Hawaii. Some experts add Seattle and San Francisco. North Korea's missiles aren't very accurate, so big, soft targets like cities are what they would be aimed at.



AP
In this July 4, 2017, file photo distributed by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, second from right, inspects the preparation of the launch of a Hwasong-14 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) in North Korea's northwest.

Big caveat: Kim's technicians still have a lot of work to do.

It's not clear if this missile could be scaled up to reach targets beyond Alaska, like New York or Washington. Reliability is also a big issue that requires years of testing to resolve. And that liquid fuel

makes the missile a sitting duck while it's being readied for launch.

DIVERSIFYING THE ARSENAL:

Along with a record number of tests, 17 this year alone, Kim has revealed a surprising array

of missiles—Harpoon-style anti-ship missiles, beefed up Scuds, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and missiles that use solid fuel, which makes them easier to hide and harder to destroy.

David Wright, with the Union of Concerned Scien-

tists, said heightened activity over the past 18 months suggests Kim decided a couple of years ago to speed up and diversify.

The takeaway: North Korea is well on its way toward a fine-tuned arsenal of missiles that can strike South Korea,

Japan and the United States.

PUSHING THE ENVELOPE:

What's next?

More sanctions, almost certainly. U.S. President Donald Trump claimed "severe things" could be in the offing. The U.S. has circulated a new list of sanctions in the U.N. Security Council and U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley put the world, and especially China, "on notice" if it doesn't toe Washington's line.

China, North Korea's economic lifeline, has reduced its imports from the North, including a cutoff of coal purchases. It appears to still be selling lots of goods to North Korea, which may anger some sanctions advocates but generates a huge trade deficit that could spell destabilizing inflation for the North if left unchecked.

North Korea, meanwhile, needs to improve its nuclear warhead technology. Its Punggye-ri underground nuclear test site has been on standby for months. So a test is fairly likely. And there will be more launches.

As Kim put it, expect lots more "gift packages, big and small" for Washington.

Sri Lanka: Navy officer arrested in case of 11 missing youth

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka police on Wednesday arrested a senior navy officer in connection with the abduction and disappearance of 11 youth, including ethnic minority Tamils, during the country's civil war that ended seven years ago.

Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said navy Commodore D.K.P. Dasanayake was arrested Wednesday after an investigation into the abduction of 11 youth in the capital Colombo.

According to Gunasekara, the youth had been abducted, illegally detained and then disappeared during the period of 2008 -2009. Dasanayake has been accused of aiding and abetting the incident.

Dasanayake will appear before a magistrate.

Three other navy members have also been arrested and remanded for the same incident.

A large number of people have been reported missing in the civil war that ended in 2009.

Many were abducted by government paramilitary personnel for alleged links to the now-defeated Tamil Tiger rebels. Rebels also abducted civilians as forced conscripts. Many people who gave themselves up to the military in the

final stages of the war are also unaccounted for.

There is no clear record of the missing from the nearly 26-year conflict. A missing person's commission has received 20,000 complaints.

Last year, ethnic Tamil leaders asked the top U.N. human rights chief Zeid Raad al-Husseini to help determine the fate of more than 4,000 Tamils reported missing in the war amid the government's assertion that most of them are probably dead.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has previously said most of those reported abducted or arrested by government-aligned forces are probably dead. He said his government has found no secret detention centers run by the state, as suspected by families of the missing, and counted only 292 people in government detention.

Police have begun fresh investigations into high-profile killings, abductions and attacks after new president Maithripala Sirisena assumed office, defeating Mahinda Rajapaksa who led the war against the Tamil rebels. Sirisena, who campaigned on a promise of ending a culture of

impunity and punishing those responsible for abuses, was elected in 2015.

Dasanayake served as the navy spokesman during the civil war, and his arrest comes amid allegations that some senior military officials were responsible for the attacks on the media and political opponents. Several army intelligence officials are in custody in connection with the assassination of a newspaper editor who criticized the Rajapaksa administration.

According to U.N. estimates, up to 100,000 people were killed in Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war, but many more are feared dead, including up to 40,000 civilians who are believed to have died in the final months of the fighting. Government troops and the Tamil Tiger rebels, who fought for an independent state for ethnic minority Tamils in the island's north and east, are both accused of war crimes.

Zeid has called for a hybrid court with local and international judges to investigate allegations of serious abuses during the war. Sri Lanka agreed to allow foreign judges before backtracking and insisting that only local courts could investigate the allegations.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH airstrike kills 2 soldiers, wounds 11 in Marawi

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine air force fighter jet missed its target in an airstrike Wednesday against Islamic State group-aligned militants in southern Marawi city, killing two soldiers who were hit by debris from a building where they were taking cover, military officials said. Eleven other soldiers were slightly wounded and taken to a hospital after being hit by shrapnel when the aircraft dropped its bomb about 250 meters (820 feet) from its target, military spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said. It was the second deadly accident involving aerial bombing since the military launched an offensive to end an unprecedented siege of the lakeside city by hundreds of militants. A bomb dropped by a military jet on May 31 hit an army position and killed 11 soldiers in Marawi. "We are saddened by this unfortunate incident," Arevalo said, adding an investigation was underway. Since the intense urban fighting broke out on May 23, at least 389 militants including foreign fighters, 90 soldiers and policemen, and 39 civilians have been killed. The battles have forced nearly 400,00 residents to flee from Marawi and outlying towns in Lanao del Sur province.

Afghan official: Gunmen abduct, kill 7 civilians from a bus

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says gunmen snatched seven civilians off a bus in the western Farah province and shot and killed them. Abdul Marouf Foad, the provincial chief police, said on Wednesday that the shooting happened the previous day in the remote district of Bala Buluk and that one

woman was among those killed. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the killings but Foad said that at the same time, a battle was underway nearby between Afghan security forces and the Taliban. Meanwhile, in western Herat province, Taliban insurgents killed at least three construction workers. Jelani Farhad, spokesman for the provincial governor, says the attack took place in the Guzara district on Tuesday. He says a police investigation is underway by police. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Japan protests armed N. Korean boat in Tokyo economic zone

h (AP)—Japan has protested to North Korea after a Japanese patrol vessel spotted an armed boat believed to be from there allegedly fishing illegally, an official said Thursday. The crew pointed a gun at the Japanese fisheries vessel, forcing it to withdraw, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference. The incident happened last Friday about 500 kilometers (310 miles) west of Japan's northern coast in an area Tokyo claims as its exclusive economic zone, Suga said. Suga said that Japan determined the boat was North Korean by observing and analyzing its crew members as well as other details. The Japanese vessel quickly left the area because of safety concerns, he said. Suga refused to discuss the North Korean boat's activity or intentions except to say that it was operating illegally. Kyodo News service said the boat was allegedly fishing squid illegally and that it chased the Japanese vessel for more than 10 minutes. The area is known as rich fishing grounds and Japanese authorities have been patrolling it for illegal operations.

World

Tiny Qatar is living large despite monthlong Arab siege

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—It's been more than a month since four Arab nations cut land, sea and air routes to Qatar, but in the gas-rich Gulf nation's glimmering malls and luxury hotels there is little sign of hardship.

High-end clothing stores hawk the latest summer trends. Grocery stores are brimming with meats and cheeses from Europe and Turkey, and just last month the country's main port received 4,300 cars and sheep from Australia.

Luxury hotels like the W and St. Regis serve lavish meals around the clock and alcohol flows for visitors. Famous Barcelona soccer players Gerard Pique, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba met with fans last week at a mall in the capital, Doha, which will host the 2022 World Cup tournament.

"We don't feel any difference. It's a celebration everywhere," Qatari Badr Jeran said as he shopped at the mall.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt moved to isolate Qatar in early June, severing diplomatic ties and closing off their air space and shipping lanes over Doha's support for Islamist groups across the region, many of which are viewed as terror groups by its



AP
In this Sunday, July 9, 2017 file photo, men wait for a bus in front of a building with the poster of Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

rivals. Qatar denies supporting extremism and has condemned the closures as an attack on its sovereignty.

Worried residents rushed to grocery stores, emptying shelves of dairy products and other food imports after Saudi Arabia sealed Qatar's only land border, but they were quickly restocked.

If the Arab nations intended to

bring about a change in government, those hopes appear to have been dashed by an outpouring of popular support for Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the 37-year-old emir. Signs on cars and billboards read "We are all Tamim. We are all Qatar".

Here's a look at how Qatar has weathered the crisis:

MONEY—LOTS OF IT

Shortly after the crisis began, a Twitter account called DohaUnderSiege began documenting life under the blockade. One post showed a fully stocked hotel buffet and said: "Breadlines have begun. Personally saw several middle-aged men at breakfast scuffling over the last baguette."

The tongue-in-cheek posts point to the fact that Qatar is fantastically wealthy. It is one of the world's richest nations per capita, making its citizens on average wealthier than even those in neighboring Gulf states.

Qatar has a population of around 2 million, but only a little more than a quarter-million are citizens, meaning the

government has a lot of wealth it can spread around.

Qatar has some \$340 billion in reserves. Around \$40 billion of that is in cash plus gold, and \$300 billion is in reserves with the Qatar Investment Authority, according to central bank governor Sheikh Abdullah Bin Saoud Al Thani. Qatar's sovereign wealth fund has invested strategically over the years in international luxury brands and real estate in major cities like New York and London.

ENERGY

Qatar's main source of revenue is its natural gas, which continues to flow uninterrupted. It is the world's largest liquefied natural gas producer, which it ships on tankers around the world. An undersea pipeline provides gas to Oman and the UAE, which heavily relies on Qatar's gas despite severing diplomatic ties.

The crisis has actually served as a "a good sort of trial run" for the Qataris to determine how to manage their economy

in the face of such an event, said Noha Aboueldahab, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Doha Center think tank.

Costs have increased for the government because of the roundabout routes that need to be taken to fly or ship food and other goods into the country, but she says the added expense has yet to be felt by shoppers.

The government says it's covering a ten-fold increase in shipping costs for food and medicine.

HELP FROM FRIENDS

Qatar's ally Turkey and its neighbor Iran have quickly stepped in to fill any gaps, as has Morocco. Instead of carrying the Saudi Almarai dairy brand, the shelves are now stocked with milk and produce from Turkey.

One of the reasons cited for the Arab nations' decision to cut ties was Qatar's relations with Iran, with which it shares a massive undersea natural gas field. But here too, the blockade seems to have had the opposite effect. Iran's kept its

airspace open, allowing Qatar Airways and other airlines to circumvent the closures.

Past investments in desert agriculture have also helped head off any food crisis. Despite the sweltering, arid climate, farmers have found ways to grow organic produce like tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, eggplant and champignon mushrooms inside greenhouses.

NEW ROUTES

Since the Arab quartet's June 5 blockade was announced, Qatar has launched five new shipping routes—two to Oman, two to India and one to Turkey.

Doha's brand-new Hamad Port, south of the Qatari capital, is operating at "full capacity," says the port's director, Abdelaziz Nasser Al-Yafei. The facility, part of a \$7.4 billion port infrastructure project, only began general cargo operations in October, and was fully up and running in early December.

Maersk Line, which had previously shipped much of its Qatar-bound cargo via Jebel Ali, has retooled its operations to keep Qatar supplied via Oman.

Hamad Port received 212 ships in June, with 24,000 containers, 4,300 cars, 61,000 livestock and 6,400 tons of construction materials. On one evening earlier this month, five large ships docking in Hamad Port unloaded sheep from Australia, food from Turkey and cars made in South Korea.

The peninsula-nation can also look to its national carrier to fly in goods. Qatar Airways, one of the region's biggest airlines, operates 200 aircraft, including 21 cargo planes.

19 killed in Boko Haram attacks in northern Nigeria city

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—Four Boko Haram suicide bombers killed 19 people in a series of attacks that targeted a civilian self-defense force and the people who gathered to mourn their deaths, police in Nigeria said Wednesday. It was the deadliest attack in months in the northeastern city of Maiduguri, the birthplace of Boko Haram's eight-year insurgency.

Borno state police commissioner Damian Chukwu said 23 others were wounded in Tuesday night's attacks. The police commissioner said 12 of the dead were members of a civilian self-defense force and the other seven people had been mourning them.

At least one of the suicide bombers was female, said a spokesman for the self-defense force, Danbatta Bello. The bombers specifically targeted his colleagues while they were on duty, he said.

"A teenage female suicide bomber actually crept to the sandbag post of our boys at Molai and before they could realize what was happening she detonated herself and killed three of our boys," Bello said.

"That happened simultane-

ously with the one that occurred at the tea vendor's, where seven of our members who took their time off to eat their dinner were killed," he said.

Boko Haram has increasingly used girls and young women to carry out attacks on marketplaces, checkpoints and other targets. Some young women who escaped extremist group have said girls are drugged and forced to carry out suicide missions.

An Associated Press reporter at the scene saw mourning residents preparing the bodies of the victims for burial.

Nigeria's government late last year declared that Boko Haram had been "crushed" but deadly attacks continue. The Islamic extremist group's insurgency has killed more than 20,000 people, abducted thousands of others and spilled over into neighboring countries.

Northeastern Nigeria is part of what the United Nations has called the world's largest humanitarian crisis in more than 70 years, with the World Food Program estimating that more than 4.5 million people in the region need emergency food assistance.

WORLD BRIEFS

Kenya: 6 police officers killed by herders in land invasions

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Six police officers have been killed by herders in volatile Laikipia County, where at least 40 people have died this year due to clashes over land, a Kenya police report said Wednesday. The herders from the Pokot Community opened fire at the Laikipia Nature Conservancy and killed the officers, the report seen by the Associated Press said. The officers were inside a pair of vehicles and part of a unit that works to prevent livestock thefts. The report says four other officers were wounded in the attack. "The second

motor vehicle retreated as they engaged the raiders, who fled back to the ranch after robbing the (slain) officers of five G3 rifles, one AK rifle and one Jericho pistol and unknown number of ammunition," the document said.

Malta OKs same-sex marriages over Catholic Church protest

VALLETTA, Malta (AP)—Lawmakers in predominantly Roman Catholic Malta legalized same-sex marriage Wednesday, joining much of Western Europe by replacing the traditional "you are now husband and wife" declaration in civil ceremonies with "you

are now spouses." Only one lawmaker out of 67 in the Maltese parliament voted against the legislation, signaling its broad support on the island nation despite opposition from the Catholic Church. Nationalist lawmaker Edwin Vassallo cited his Catholic faith and its incompatibility with what he called a "morally unacceptable" law. "As a Christian politician I cannot leave my conscience outside the door" when voting, Vassallo said. The Labor government had promised to introduce the bill as its first law after winning a second term last month. Both opposition parties supported it, ensuring its passage.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Mom wants apology over McDonald's slide covered in poop

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)—A woman says her 5-year-old son came down a slide at a McDonald's playground in New Hampshire covered in poop. Justina Whitmore took to Facebook to recount the incident and complain that staff at a Manchester McDonald's didn't take the problem seriously and ignored her pleas for help. She wants an apology. Whitmore says she was eating when her son came over covered in human waste. She says he had been playing tag with a boy who had a soiled diaper. The restaurant owner told The Associated Press on Wednesday that they "looked into this matter and have taken all appropriate internal actions, as well as reiterated proper protocol with our team." The Manchester Health Department allowed McDonald's to reopen the play area the next day after it was cleaned and disinfected.

US Customs agents find cobras inside mail at JFK Airport

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents received a slithery surprise when they checked a mail container at Kennedy International Airport. The agency said Tuesday that officials seized five live king cobras and three geckos during an inspection at the airport mail facility on June 29. Agents first discovered the dangerous contents of the package in an X-ray scan. The reptiles were sent in a container from Hong Kong. The agency's New York Field Operations Office said the seizure shows the wide-ranging responsibility of the agency. The reptiles have been sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. King cobras are the world's largest venomous snakes, growing up to nearly 19 feet. (5.8 meters)

Maine driver calls on police to get coiled snake from car

AUBURN, Maine (AP)—A Maine driver got the scare of his life when he found a snake in his car. The unidentified driver called the Auburn police Tuesday, telling a dispatcher that he was afraid of snakes and would rather burn his car than touch the garter snake that was coiled in his car door. The police, who noted the unusual nature of the call in a Facebook post, sent Officer Travis Barnies to assist the driver. Barnies removed the snake, then got a selfie with it before releasing the foot-long snake into the wild unharmed. Vermont officials offer \$100 bounty to find tree vandals

Vermont officials offer \$100 bounty to find tree vandals

WEST RUTLAND, Vt. (AP)—Town officials in Vermont are willing to spend \$100 to find out who is breaking branches off of local trees in West Rutland. The select board voted Monday to authorize a \$100 reward. Town Manager Mary Ann Goulette tells the Rutland Herald they don't have any concrete leads yet on who's responsible for the tree damage, but have received tips on Facebook. Last year, the town planted a group of 200 trees on a local street. Someone started breaking branches—and in some cases tree trunks—in mid-June. Goulette says the repeated vandalism has drawn a significant amount of anger in the community, triggering the board's decision to offer the reward.

Me want cocaine? Drugs found inside Cookie Monster doll

MARATHON, Fla. (AP)—A stash of cocaine hidden inside a Cookie Monster doll has landed a Florida man in jail on a drug charge. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office said in a news release Wednesday that 39-year-old Ca-

mus McNair was arrested after a traffic stop in the Florida Keys involving a car with heavily tinted windows and an obscured license plate. A deputy smelled marijuana odor after pulling over McNair's car, then searched a backpack in the car and found the Cookie Monster doll. The deputy noticed the doll seemed heavier than it should and a slit had been cut into it. Authorities say about 11 ounces (312 grams) of cocaine was found inside the doll. McNair was jailed, with bail set at \$7,000.

Life-sized cutout of police cruiser slows down drivers

LAKEVILLE, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts man has gotten drivers to slow down for years with the help of a life-sized cutout of a police cruiser posted in his driveway. Kelly Tufts tells WFXT-TV he got the life-sized Crown Victoria sign from a friend who owned a salvage yard. The sign is made of plywood and aluminum siding. He puts it outside his Lakeville home on weekends and during holidays to slow down drivers in the area. The sign is reflective at night. Tufts says town police are OK with the sign, but some passing drivers have given offensive hand gestures. He says they'd enjoy the sign "if it was their neighborhood" where speeding cars were being slowed down.

Hippo happiness: Both parents join Cincinnati Zoo baby Fiona

CINCINNATI (AP)—And Daddy makes three. The father of the Cincinnati Zoo's popular baby hippo Fiona has joined her and mother Bibi in their first time together as a trio. Zoo officials say Fiona, Bibi and Henry were united in the Hippo Cove outdoor pool Tuesday morning before the zoo opened. They say the supervised visit of about an hour went well, with Bibi properly reacting protectively. Fiona has been exploring the outdoor habitat with Bibi for several weeks, with some contact inside separately with Henry. Fiona was born Jan. 24, weighing 29 pounds (13 kilograms). She overcame health scares and now weighs nearly 375 pounds (170 kilograms). Her parents weigh about 10 times that. Video updates such as Fiona taking a bottle, splashing or running have drawn millions of online views.

Cop: Woman nabbed for drugs demands them back, is rearrested

SALEM, N.H. (AP)—Authorities say a New Hampshire woman arrested for drug possession returned to the police station to demand the drugs be returned to her, and she was rearrested. An officer told 26-year-old Emily Morin, of Concord, he wouldn't return the Suboxone, a highly addictive substance that can be used to treat heroin addiction. It was seized as evidence during her arrest stemming from a shoplifting incident Tuesday. The officer said he saw Morin get into a car and start to drive away. Earlier, police determined that Morin's license and registration were suspended. She was arrested after a struggle. Morin was being arraigned Wednesday on charges of driving after suspension, breach of bail and resisting arrest, in addition to drug and willful concealment charges.

Want a governor's mansion? You'll need to move it

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)—If you want to live in a governor's mansion without being elected, North Dakota has a deal for you. With a catch. The state wants to preserve the 10,000-square-foot home that has served North Dakota's first families for 57 years, while making way for a larger \$5 million mansion. But that means the sprawling house needs to be moved. No later than September.

Science & Technology

Science Matters

Computer watches as brain sees

By scanning the brain with MRI while a person looks at an object and interpreting those scans with computer intelligence, researchers have decoded how vision works.

Brain activity patterns
Researchers used functional MRI, an electromagnetic scan that detects changing activity in different parts of the brain

Computer's processing
Experiment used the Deep Neural Network, an artificial intelligence system trained by a group now at Google

1 When we gaze at an object — or imagine seeing one ...

2 Our brain processes a series of visual patterns, from simple ones to more complex ones

3 Meanwhile, it scans a vast catalog of patterns stored in visual memory, looking for a match

4 It compares similar, remembered images

1 MRI scans of brain

2 It detects the visual patterns the person's brain is processing

3 It searches a database of patterns and images that have been loaded into its memory

Computer then reports quite accurately what object the person is looking at — or imagining

Series of patterns

Catalog of images

Finds similarities

Source: Yukiyasu Kamitani of Kyoto University; Advanced Telecommunications Research Computational Neuroscience Laboratories; Nature Communications journal; horse photo by Freya Imsland
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

TECH Q&A

Why a hard drive looks full but isn't

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: My Windows 10 PC keeps telling me that I'm nearly out of storage space on my Seagate 1-terabyte Expansion Portable Hard Drive. But when I look at the external drive's content menu, I see that it's nowhere near full. What's wrong?—Jeffrey Miller, Reading, Pa.

A: External hard drives frequently come with electronic partitions that subdivide the disk into smaller segments. Windows 10 apparently is seeing only one of those segments, which is why it erroneously believes the disk is nearly full.

In a small business, external hard drive partitions would allow backups from different computers to be kept separate. But for a home user, the partition isn't useful. For example, when the disk segment you are using is full, you would need to switch to another segment to store more data.

The solution is to reformat the drive and, in the process, erase the partitions. That will allow Windows 10 to see all of the disk's storage space at once.

But reformatting will wipe

the external hard drive clean, so you will first need to store its data in a different place—on your PC, some CDs, some flash drives or another external drive.

Once that's done, see tinyurl.com/bwpyel7 for directions on how to erase the external drive's partitions. You can then reformat the disk in the NTFS (New Technology File System) format that Windows 10 uses (see tinyurl.com/oyepq2o).

Q: I keep getting messages that my Microsoft Excel spreadsheet files are corrupt when I use Microsoft Office 2016 on a Windows 10 laptop. Excel then tries to repair the files, but often can't. At the same time, Windows reports error 0x803D0010.

I can run the same version of Office on two other computers without problems. What's wrong?—Nick Dragisich, Stillwater, Minn.

A: There may be corruption in the Windows 10 registry (a database of settings), which requires a bit of tinkering. Or the warning could be erroneous and easily fixed by changing settings in Excel.

First, see whether a settings

change will do. Excel treats with caution any files that originate from the internet, from "potentially unsafe locations" or from an Outlook e-mail attachment. Excel automatically opens such a file in what's called "protected view." But that can trigger a false warning about file corruption.

To fix that, go to Excel's "options" setting to prevent the program from opening those files in protected view (see tinyurl.com/yd57s56v).

If that doesn't fix the problem, the Microsoft Office error message you received may indicate that a recent software installation (perhaps the addition of Office 2016) could have corrupted the Windows registry. Uninstall Office and any other software you have recently added, then read the registry repair directions at tinyurl.com/ybrv9bgm (see the "all by yourself" repair option.)

If that doesn't work, you will need to check other possible causes of the error code, such as a lack of sufficient hard drive space or a need to update your device driver software (which talks to PC components) for Windows 10 compatibility. See a list of possible causes on the same website.

Life & Style

Where's Rey? Despite Monopoly maker's promise, still missing

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Where's the character Rey in the "Star Wars" version of Monopoly? In a land far, far away, apparently.

Eighteen months after game-maker Hasbro Inc. promised to add the female character to the game by the fall of 2016, an Illinois girl

who wrote to the company to say "girls matter" is still waiting.

Others are, too.

After inquiries from The Associated Press this week, the Pawtucket-based company said it made the Rey piece but sets with Rey weren't available for sale in the U.S. People

who bought the all-male game can request a Rey from customer service, spokeswoman Julie Duffy said Wednesday.

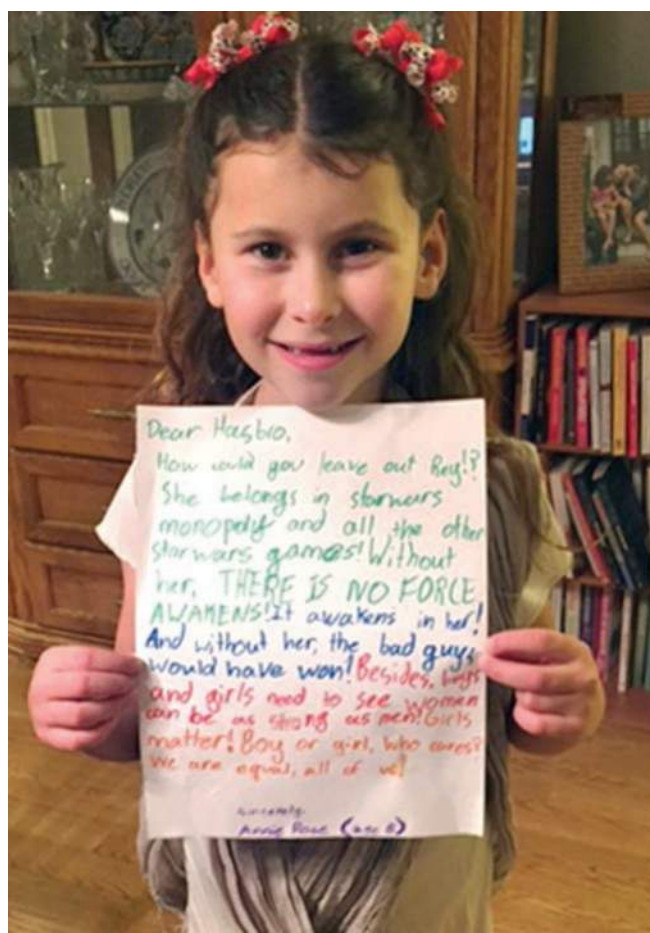
"In early 2016, Hasbro updated the 2015 Star Wars: Monopoly game to add a Rey token," Duffy said by email. "This product was sold to retailers in several markets around the world but is not available for sale in the U.S. due to insufficient interest."

Duffy said the company offered the updated version of the game to U.S. retailers but "retailers had ample inventory so they did not choose to sell the new version."

She said the game with a Rey piece was made available in five markets, including the United Kingdom and France, though the AP found one family that recently bought the game in the United Kingdom and no Rey was included. Duffy said the company has fulfilled 99 requests for the Rey token in the U.S. and 10 in Canada.

Hasbro said it would add a Rey character in January 2016, amid an online outcry that carried the hashtag #WheresRey.

"We love the passion fans have for Rey, and are happy to announce that we will be making a running change to include her in the Monopoly: Star Wars game available later this year," Duffy told the AP



In this January 2016 photo provided by Carrie Goldman, her daughter, Annie Rose, holds a letter in Evanston, Ill., that she wrote to Hasbro asking why the female character Rey was omitted from a Monopoly set based on "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," when she is a main character and crucial to the story. Hasbro responded that they would add Rey to a Star Wars version of Monopoly by the end of the year. Eighteen months later, Annie Rose and others are still waiting.

by email at the time.

She added that fans who had already bought the game "can

obtain the Rey token by contacting Hasbro Consumer Care when the updated game be-

comes available later this year."

Annie Rose Goldman wrote the letter that sparked the outcry. Her mother, Carrie Goldman, of Evanston, Illinois, said Wednesday she's happy Annie Rose will be able to get a Rey figure but it's not how they understood Hasbro's promise.

"I would still like to see it where any girl or boy or person who goes to buy the game, Rey is in there," Goldman said.

Hasbro is sending Annie Rose a token, and the family will buy the game, but Annie Rose called it "an awful lot of trouble to go through." She pointed out that a lot of kids won't know to call the company and said she was disappointed.

"They didn't keep their word," she said.

Goldman posted Annie Rose's letter on Twitter in January 2016. In it, the then-8-year-old asks why Hasbro left out Rey from the set based on "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" when she's a main character, crucial to the story.

"Without her THERE IS NO FORCE AWAKENS!" wrote Annie Rose, who's now 10. "It awakens in her! And without her, the bad guys would have won! Besides, boys and girls need to see that women can be as strong as men! Girls matter!"

Kid Rock hints at potential US Senate run in Michigan

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Kid Rock for U.S. Senate?

The musician from suburban Detroit is teasing his potential 2018 candidacy, though it is news to Michigan Republicans.

Kid Rock, who was born Robert Ritchie, said Wednesday that a website hinting at his campaign—www.kidrockforsenate.com—is legit.



Ritchie

"I have had a ton of emails and texts asking me if this website is real," he said on Facebook and Twitter. "The answer is an absolute YES. Stay tuned, I will have a major announcement in the near future."

Ritchie could not be reached by The Associated Press to discuss his plans. Spokesman Kirt Webster referred to the Facebook post and said "more soon."

Michigan Republican Party Chairman Ron Weiser said he had not heard from Ritchie, who endorsed GOP presidential candidates Donald Trump in 2016 and Mitt Romney in 2012.

"It could be a publicity ploy. Don't know," Weiser said in a text message.

The website shows Ritchie, 46, and asks "Are You Scared?" It has slogans such as "In Rock We Trust," "I'll Rock The Party" and "You've Never Met a Politician Quite Like Me." It links to campaign merchandise on a website for his record label, Warner Bros.

Third-term Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow is up for re-election in 2018 after easily winning in 2012 and 2006. Republican candidates include former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bob Young Jr. and businesswoman Lena Epstein.

Democrats traditionally have fared well in statewide federal elections in Michigan. But Trump's narrow victory over Hillary Clinton in the state—the first for a GOP presidential nominee in 28

years—has given Republicans some optimism about facing the popular Stabenow.

Epstein, herself a political newcomer, welcomed Ritchie to "the party" and said she hopes they can campaign together.

"The more attention we can bring to the need to defeat Debbie Stabenow the better off we will be in November of 2018!" she said.

Stabenow said she shares Ritchie's love for music.

"I concede he is better at playing the guitar and I'll keep doing what I do best, which is fighting for Michigan," she said in a statement.

In April, Trump hosted Kid Rock, musician Ted Nugent and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin at a White House dinner.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

† *Estefania Sablan Mendiola Arriola*
Better known as "Nia"

BORN: March 30, 1933 • DEATH: July 11, 2017

In her new life, she now joins:

Husband: †Jesus Arriola
Parents: †Joaquin M. Mendiola
†Dolores S. Mendiola
Mother In-law: †Ignacia Arriola
Sister In-law: †Dolores Arriola Tudela
Sisters & In-laws: †Maria Sablan Cabrera (Guam) & †Roman M. Cabrera
†Theodora Mendiola Bermudes & †Ramon LG. Bermudes
†Juanita Mendiola Fleming & †George F. Fleming
Brothers & In-laws: †Juan Sablan Mendiola & †Rosalia C. Mendiola
†Esteban Sablan Mendiola & †Martha M. Mendiola
Brother In-law: †Froilan T. Camacho & †Miguel L. Magofna
†Gregorio Tudela

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Son: John Patrick Mendiola Arriola "Chinaman"
Son In-law: Frankie Sablan Camacho, Jr.
Sisters: Anunciacion "Asako" Mendiola Magofna
Dolores Sablan Mendiola-Aldan & Vicente Taitano Aldan
Sister In-law: Elizabeth Macahito Mendiola-Escobar

Holy mass is being offered at Mt. Cathedral every morning at 6:00 a.m. On Sunday, July 16, 2017, mass will be offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 9:00 a.m. On Monday, July 17, 2017, her remains will be escorted from CHCC morgue at 7:30 a.m. to Mt. Carmel Cathedral where last respect and viewing will be held. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. and interment will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase for your prayers.

Patrick M. Arriola, Frankie S. Camacho, Jr., Dolores & Vicente Aldan



German police arrest 4 in brazen gold coin heist in Berlin

BERLIN (AP)—Hundreds of German special police raided several buildings in Berlin early Wednesday, arresting four suspects in connection with the brazen heist of a 100-kilogram (221-pound) Canadian gold coin stolen from one of the city's museums earlier this year.

Heavily-armed masked police arrested the suspects, one wearing a hood over his head, in Berlin's Neukölln neighborhood. Another nine people are being questioned in the case. All suspects are related to one another and aged between 18 and 20, police said.

The raids of 13 different buildings lasted several hours, but the gold coin was not recovered.

"We assume that the coin was partially or completely sold," Carsten Pfohl of the Berlin state criminal office told reporters at a press conference. He added that police also confiscated clothes and cars to comb for traces of gold.

The Canadian "Big Maple Leaf" coin, worth several million euros (dollars), was stolen from the Bode museum in March.

Police say the three-centimeter (1.2-inch) thick gold coin, with a diameter of 53 centimeters (20.9 inches) has a face value of 1 million Canadian dollars (\$750,000). By weight alone, however, it



would be worth almost \$4.5 million at market prices.

Experts think the coin may have been melted down already to cash in on the gold. Police also searched a jewelry store in the Berlin neighbor-

hood, saying they had indications the store may have been involved in the possible sale of the gold.

The thieves were most likely tipped off to the existence of the enormous coin by an acquaint-

tance who worked at the museum as a guard, police said.

At least two burglars broke into the museum at night on March 27, using a ladder to climb to a window from elevated railway tracks. They

^{AP}
The Dec. 8, 2010 photo shows the 'Big Maple Leaf' coin in the Bode Museum in Berlin.

grabbed the coin, loaded it onto a wheelbarrow and then carted it out of the building and along the tracks across the Spree River before descending into a park on a rope and fleeing in a getaway car.

Police had published footage from surveillance video asking the public for help in finding the thieves.

The coin, which has an image of Queen Elizabeth II on one side and maple leaves on the other, was on loan from a private, unidentified person, dpa reported. It's one of only five that were made by the Royal Canadian Mint.

'This is Us,' 'The Crown' vie for Emmy nods; no 'Thrones'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With "Game of Thrones" off the Emmy battlefield this time around, the likely beneficiaries will be streaming dramas and, in a reversal of fortune, a broadcast series.

Netflix's "The Crown" and "Stranger Things" and Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," all streamed shows, could be among the nominees to be announced Thursday at the TV academy by Anna Chlumsky ("Veep") and Shemar Moore ("Criminal Minds," the upcoming "S.W.A.T.") The announcement will be streamed live at 11:30 a.m. EDT on www.emmys.com.

The NBC freshman series "This is Us," a hit with viewers and critics, has a chance to show network dramas can be Emmy worthy again. A commercial broadcast network hasn't fielded a best drama series contender since

CBS' "The Good Wife" was nominated in 2011. The last network winner was Fox's "24" in 2006.

HBO's "Game of Thrones," which dominated last year's Emmys with 23 nods and 12 trophies, including its second consecutive best drama award, falling outside the eligibility window for Emmy consideration this year.

"Orphan Black" isn't in the running for the same reason, depriving star Tatiana Maslany of the chance to repeat as best drama actress.

On the flip side, this could be the year of the sitcom auteur—those actors who star in their creations, and often write and even direct them. That includes Aziz Ansari in "Master of None" on Netflix; Donald Glover's "Atlanta" on FX, and Issa Rae's "Insecure" on HBO.

'Big Bang's' Melissa Rauch pregnant after miscarriage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Big Bang Theory" star Melissa Rauch is expecting her first child with her husband, screenwriter Winston Rauch.

The actress revealed her pregnancy in an essay for *Glamour* magazine in which she also opens up about a miscarriage she suffered. She writes that she's "terrified at the moment

that it will happen again," but is making the news public before someone sees her pregnant and announces the news first.

She says the miscarriage "was one of the most profound sorrows" she has ever felt and led to a bout with de-



Rauch

pression.

The 37-year-old Rauch says the experience has changed her forever and hopes it will make her a better mother.

Rauch plays Dr. Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz on the CBS sitcom.

UK welcomes Spanish king and queen with military pomp

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and her husband led an extravagant ceremony to welcome the king and queen of Spain, who began a state visit Wednesday amid tensions between the two nations over Britain's exit from the European Union.

The three-day visit by King Felipe VI and his wife, Queen Letizia, came amid a brewing dispute about what Brexit means for the future of Gibraltar, a tiny, rocky territory at the tip of the Iberian peninsula that Britain has controlled for three centuries against Spain's wishes.

The two countries are also trying to resolve the status of thousands of expatriates facing uncertainty over their rights once Britain leaves the EU.

Yet there was no sign of discord as the Spanish royals arrived at Buckingham Palace, with Britain treating them to the full pomp and pageantry traditionally rolled out for visiting heads of state.

Prince Philip and Felipe first inspected troops at central London's Horse Guards Parade, a former royal jousting yard. Dozens of soldiers on



^{AP}
Spain's Queen Letizia and Britain's Prince Philip sit together in a carriage as they are taken to Buckingham Palace after a Ceremonial Welcome on Horse Guards Parade in London, Wednesday, July 12, 2017.

horseback then escorted both monarchs and their spouses in a spectacular procession down The Mall, which was decorated with Union Jack and Spanish flags.

Felipe rode with the queen in the 1902 State Landau, a gilded carriage built for the coronation of King Edward VII, while Philip travelled with Letizia in a separate carriage.

Later, addressing both houses of Parliament, Felipe said Spain was saddened by Brit-

ain's decision to leave the EU but respects it. He urged the two governments to guarantee citizens' rights after Britain's withdrawal—a key sticking point in Brexit talks.

"Those citizens have a legitimate expectation of decent and stable living conditions for themselves and their families," he said.

Emphasizing the strong historical ties between the two nations, the king also expressed confidence that they could overcome their dif-

ferences over Gibraltar and "work towards arrangements that are acceptable for all involved."

While the rocky enclave has been a source of friction between Britain and Spain for centuries, and spats over alleged incursions by fishing and navy vessels in Gibraltar's waters aren't uncommon, the Brexit negotiations have pushed the territory's status to the forefront.

Britain is annoyed with Spain and the EU because Brussels has said that Spain should have veto rights on any agreements regarding Gibraltar during Brexit talks.

Felipe and Letizia are the first Spanish monarchs to visit Britain since Felipe's father toured the country in the 1980s. Both royal lines are descended from Queen Victoria. Felipe's great-grandmother, Queen Ena of Spain, was Victoria's youngest granddaughter. Victoria is Elizabeth's great-great-grandmother.

Felipe and his wife were dining Wednesday night at a state banquet in the ballroom of Buckingham Palace, where they are staying.

Postage stamps commemorate centennial of artist Andrew Wyeth

CHADDS FORD, Pa. (AP)—The U.S. Postal Service is issuing stamps commemorating the centennial of artist Andrew Wyeth.

The Postal service says Wyeth "found endless inspiration" in his hometown of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, and in rural Maine. It said Wednesday each one of the dozen Andrew Wyeth Forever stamps will feature a detail from one of his paintings, including perhaps his most famous painting, 1948's

"Christina's World."

The artist's son, artist Jamie Wyeth, was among those attending Wednesday's announcement at the Brandywine River Museum of Art in Chadds Ford.

The museum says Wyeth worked "in a realistic style that defied artistic trends" and "created haunting and enigmatic paintings based largely on people and places in his life." It says his body of work "continues to resist easy or comfortable interpretation."

Moon dust collected by Neil Armstrong to be sold at auction

NEW YORK (AP)—Moon dust collected by Neil Armstrong during the first lunar landing is being sold at a New York auction.

The lunar dust plus some tiny rocks that Armstrong also collected are zipped up in a small bag and are worth an estimated \$2 million to \$4 million.

They're just some of the items linked to space travel that Sotheby's is auctioning

off to mark the 48th anniversary of the first lunar landing on July 20.

Armstrong's snapshot of fellow Apollo 11 astronaut "Buzz" Aldrin standing on the moon could go for up to \$4,000. Also on the block, is a documented flight plan that astronauts used to return to Earth.

Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon. He died in 2012 in Ohio.

Shia LaBeouf apologizes for racist tirade during arrest

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shia LaBeouf apologized Wednesday for a racist tirade against Georgia police officers and jailors who arrested him Saturday for public drunkenness.

The actor wrote in a statement posted on Twitter Wednesday that he has been publicly struggling with addiction for “far too long.” He called his behavior a new low and attributed it in part to his complete disrespect for authority.

The statement, which was

confirmed as legitimate by LaBeouf’s publicist, asked for forgiveness and said the actor was taking steps to get sober. He did not elaborate.

LaBeouf’s apology came hours after celebrity website TMZ posted video taken while the actor was being booked when he accused police of being racist and told a black officer he was going to hell. The actor made several other profane remarks before being released on \$7,000 bond.



AP
In this Saturday, July 8, 2017 photo released by the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office, actor Shia LaBeouf poses for a booking photo, in Savannah, Ga.

The videos were not immediately available Wednesday from the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office.

The “Transformers” actor was arrested in a hotel lobby at 4 a.m. Saturday by the Savannah Police Department and released. He was also accused of disorderly conduct and obstruction.

“I am deeply ashamed of my behavior and make no excuses for it,” LaBeouf wrote on Twitter.

“My outright disrespect for

authority is problematic to say the least, and completely destructive to say the worst,” LaBeouf, 31, wrote. “It is a new low. A low I hope is bottom. I have been struggling with addiction publicly for far too long, and I am actively taking steps toward securing my sobriety and hope I can be forgiven for my mistakes.”

LaBeouf is in the Savannah area filming his new movie, “The Peanut Butter Falcon,” which also stars Dakota Johnson.



SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Kim Kardashian West: Streaks on table were marble, not drugs

Kim Kardashian West is clearing things up after some of her social media followers claimed to see lines of cocaine on a table in the background of one of her posts. Kardashian West posted a Twitter video Tuesday explaining that the pair of white streaks spotted on a black table at a hotel she’s staying at is just part of the table’s marble stone. She showed up close shots of the table. On Monday, she initially posted she thought the streaks might be leftover sugar from some candy her kids were eating. Kardashian West admonished those who thought the streaks were drugs, saying, “I have kids. It’s just not my lifestyle. I’ve never been like that.” (AP)

Ariana Grande to become Manchester honorary citizen

LONDON (AP)—Manchester officials say they are making U.S. pop singer Ariana Grande an honorary citizen of the city because of her response to the deadly concert attack in May. City council

leader Richard Leese proposed the move, describing the 23-year-old singer as “a young American woman for whom it would have been understandable if she never wanted to see this place again.” He said instead, Grande “brought comfort to thousands and raised millions” for an emergency fund when she returned to headline the One Love Manchester benefit concert in June. Other council officials in the northwest English city voted Wednesday to back the proposal. Bomber Salman Abedi killed 22 people on May 22 when he detonated a bomb at the Manchester Arena at the end of a concert by Grande.

Derek Jeter’s sister is co-authoring a motivational book

NEW YORK (AP)—An upcoming book from Derek Jeter’s imprint is co-written by someone close to the former Yankees shortstop: His sister Sharlee Jeter. Jeter Publishing told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Sharlee Jeter and Dr. Sampson Davis were collaborating on “The Stuff: Unlock Your Power to Over-

come Challenges, Soar, and Succeed.” The book is scheduled for May 2018. Drawing upon the stories of athletes and entertainers, among others, “The Stuff” will “highlight 11 core elements” essential to success. Sharlee Jeter is president of her brother’s Turn 2 Foundation, which helps young people avoid drugs and alcohol. Davis is a physician, philanthropist and public speaker whose books include “Living and Dying in Brick City.”

Loretta Lynn at home after stroke, will delay next album

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country legend Loretta Lynn is back at home after a stroke she suffered in May. Her new album will be delayed until next year and all her remaining tour dates this year have been canceled. A statement released Wednesday by her record label said the 85-year-old singer-songwriter is back at her home in Tennessee after a stay at a rehabilitation facility. Lynn said she’s getting stronger every day and her main focus is on making a full recovery. Her next album, “Wouldn’t

It Be Great,” on Sony Music Legacy Recording was scheduled to be released in August, but Lynn said in the statement she wanted to wait until next year so she can give it her full attention.

No quiet desperation at Thoreau’s 200th birthday observance

CONCORD, Mass. (AP)—The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation. The rest are observing the 200th birthday of Henry David Thoreau, the author who penned that line. The U.S. Postal Service marked the occasion Wednesday with a new postage stamp honoring the “Walden” and “Civil Disobedience” writer, philosopher and naturalist. Thoreau was born in Concord, Massachusetts, on July 12, 1817. Concord Postmaster Ray White and officials from the Thoreau Farm and Birthplace were on hand to dedicate the stamp. They say it’s in tribute to Thoreau’s “personal example of simple living, his criticism of materialism and the timeless questions he raises about the place of the individual in society.” Fans gathered at Walden

Pond, where Thoreau lived and worked, to read aloud from “Walden” and other classics.

Mayweather-McGregor set for T-Mobile after deal with Big3

Floyd Mayweather’s boxing match against Conor McGregor will be held at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas after promoters reached an agreement with Ice Cube to move the championship game of his Big3 basketball league. The final game of the 3-on-3 season of former NBA players will now be held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Aug. 26, with a 4:30 p.m. Eastern start. The Big3 said Tuesday it has reached a financial and promotional deal with MGM Resorts, Mayweather Promotions and UFC. Terms weren’t disclosed. Mayweather and McGregor are set to begin a four-city tour this week to promote the fight. Mayweather will be returning from retirement to face the mixed martial arts star and UFC President Dana White had said the match would be held at T-Mobile, the largest venue in Las Vegas. But the arena had continued to

list the basketball game on its schedule of events. (AP)

Actress Maia Campbell rejects LL Cool J’s offer of help

ATLANTA (AP)—Former actress Maia Campbell has rejected an offer of help from her one-time sitcom co-star LL Cool J. The actor and rapper asked his social media followers for help finding Campbell after a disturbing video surfaced that appears to show Campbell asking a man at an Atlanta gas station for drugs. It’s not clear if LL Cool J got in touch with Campbell, but she declined his offer in a new video, saying, “I don’t need help, I just need a benefit concert for mental health.” Campbell says she’s doing “good” and describes herself as a “real serious person.” LL Cool J responded on Twitter, “You can’t help someone who doesn’t want your help.” LL Cool J starred alongside Campbell in the 1990s sitcom “In the House.” In 2012, Campbell discussed her battles with substance abuse and bipolar disorder on the OWN series “Iyanla: Fix My Life.”

Man answers wife’s hurt feeling with angry shouts

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for two years, and my husband has three grown children. He was recently planning a getaway with the youngest and included me in the plans. I didn’t want to interfere and suggested that his child might want to spend some one-on-one time with him. I later learned that not only were his other kids going, but their spouses were as well. Everyone was included but me. I felt very hurt to be excluded.

When I shared with him how I felt, his response was that he couldn’t control his kids, but I feel he could have controlled his response. To exclude me was deliberate. When I told him how hurt I was, he got less than an inch from my face and started screaming about MY kids (who love him like a father). It scared me because he was in my face. I have never had a man scream in my face like that before. I don’t know what to do. I was truly terrified.

LOST IN THE EAST

DEAR LOST: Your husband may have reacted the way he did out of guilt. If you haven’t already, tell him that no one has ever spoken to you the way he did and that it terrified you. Tell him that when someone acts that way, the natural conclusion of the person being bullied (which is what he was doing) is to fear the verbal attack will escalate

to physical violence.

If he can’t explain calmly why he overreacted when you said you were hurt, then the two of you could use some sessions with a marriage counselor. If he refuses to go, go without him. He was less than honest in not disclosing beforehand that everyone but you would be vacationing together. During some of your counseling sessions, consider discussing healthy ways to disagree and the dynamics of “vacations with the kids”—both his and yours—in the future.

DEAR ABBY: Years before my dad passed away, he started keeping a notebook he called “Jack’s Doomsday Book.” In it he listed account numbers and balances, names of banks, passwords, locations of documents and other detailed instructions on how to take over his responsibilities if he was incapacitated. He always told Mom and me that if something happened, to find that notebook in which everything was written down.

Mom died first, so when Dad became ill years later, he made sure I had the notebook. I can’t tell you how much easier it made things. I didn’t have to go searching through paperwork to figure out what was what. I knew the banks I had to go to and what to bring. It was all there, down to the changes he had made after Mom passed. Even our financial adviser was impressed at how easy Dad made everything for us. Everyone

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

should have a doomsday book.

JACK’S GIRL IN LOUISIANA

DEAR JACK’S GIRL: I couldn’t agree more. I admire your father’s pragmatism. Too many adults fail to plan ahead for this kind of inevitability, which causes additional problems for survivors at a time when they are trying to cope with their grief. Readers, if you haven’t already done something similar, you should consider it.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



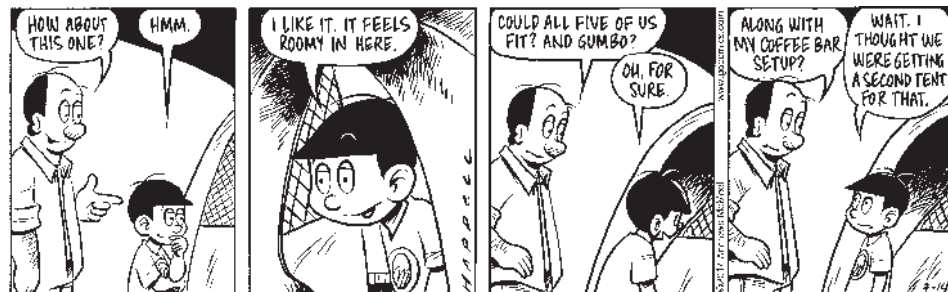
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



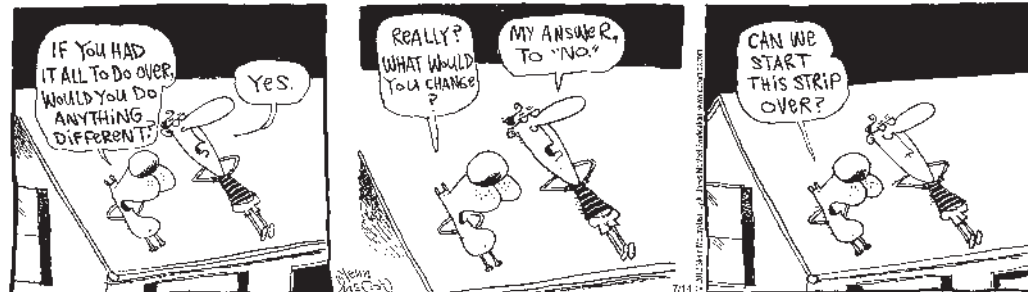
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nap site
4 Wizard's prop
8 Barn roof topper
12 Lab eggs
13 Jai —
14 "Yeah, right!"
15 Hot
17 Ms. McEntire
18 Exonerates
19 Work unit
21 Place
22 Hot
26 Trades
29 Noshed
30 Raw rock
31 Olympian queen
32 Third-yr. class
33 Group of actors
34 Feedbag bit
35 Fine, to NASA
36 "The Blacklist" actor
37 Hot

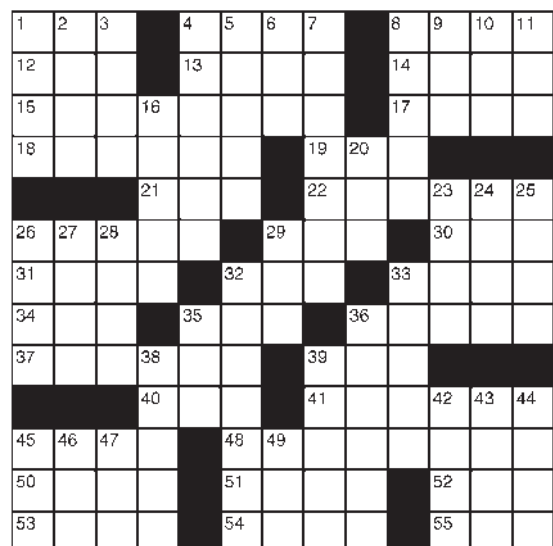
DOWN

39 California's
40 Not
41 Plaza
45 Crop-growing tract
48 Hot
50 Flightless birds
51 Profound
52 Showbiz job
53 Pizzazz
54 Corn units
55 Unlock, in verse
1 Pear type
2 Satan's forte
3 Stupor
4 Tusked mammal
5 Top invitees
6 A Bobbsey twin
7 Summaries
8 Sign after Leo
9 Copper head?
10 Kan. neighbor
11 JFK info
16 Rocker Frank
20 Numbered
23 Rich soil
24 Gaelic
25 Trawler gear
26 Attempt
27 Sport
28 Jocular
29 Biblical boat
32 Reckless jaunt
33 Ricochet
35 Citric beverage
36 Minty quaffs
38 Chinese food request
39 Passover repast
42 "Othello" villain
43 Use scissors
44 Rim
45 Shriner's cap
46 Parisian pal
47 Skeddadle
49 PBS funder

Solution time: 27 mins.

M	I	S	O	B	A	T	H	N	E	W
A	C	L	O	S	O	C	R	A		
I	O	O	T	H	P	I	C	K	N	I
A	N	G	L	E	S	U	P	S	E	T
	A	M		M	A	M	E	T		
A	C	H	Y	J	O	N	W	I	L	T
M	A	O		U	S	O		G	F	O
A	R	M	S	T	E	N	S	K	I	M
P	E	S	C	I	A	V	E	N	U	E
U	N	I	B	A	I	I	W	I	C	K
N	Y	C	E	A	R		E	L	L	E
Y	A	K	S	H	A	Y	D	E	A	D

Yesterday's answer 7-14



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Scott Porter, 38; Matthew Fox, 51; Jackie Earle Haley, 56; Jane Lynch, 57.

Happy Birthday: How you relate to others will make a difference this year. Let your intuition help you interact with compassion, thoughtfulness and a purpose. What you do to help others and make improvements will benefit whatever group, community or society you belong to. Strive for personal advancement and aim to please, and good things will happen. Your numbers are 4, 11, 22, 25, 34, 37, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Home improvements and domestic changes are likely to bring both good and bad results. Don't go over budget or refuse to compromise when faced with an obstacle. Just get the job done and do your best to keep the peace. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you want something to happen, take control and put in the effort. Don't sit back when physical intervention is required. Anger solves nothing, so take action to improve your life, community or your relationship with others. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Personal, physical and intellectual changes are favored. Do your best to get along better with someone you care about. Taking the time to share your feelings and intentions will encourage better relationships. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Short trips, communication and taking care of unfinished business will put your mind at ease and open up opportunities to enjoy a little down-

time with friends and family. Explore new possibilities and enjoy the moment. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Learn as you go. Be observant, ask questions and don't commit to anything without getting a glimpse of the prospects and results. Erring on the side of caution will help you avoid being taken advantage of. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do your part to build a better environment and community for yourself, your family and your friends. Taking initiative will encourage others to participate as well. Keep your distance from anyone pushing impulsive suggestions. Honor your word. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do your best to get along with your peers, boss or anyone else you have to deal with professionally. Making legitimate suggestions is fine as long as you are positive and complimentary about what others contribute. ***

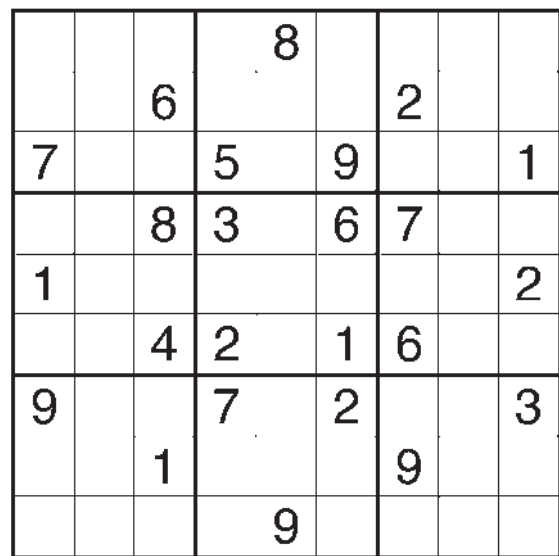
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Socialize with people you find interesting and who live a lifestyle you admire. The impact others have on you will bring positive results that can help you walk away from an unhealthy situation. Self-deception must be dealt with honestly. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The changes you make at home should ensure that you cut your overhead. Make plans that are doable with people you know will come through for you. Offer affordable incentives and get things done. **

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

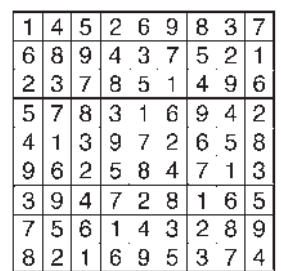


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

7/13

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't push your plans on others or let something fester that should be taken care of immediately. How you handle others will make a difference in the way you are perceived. Fair behavior is encouraged. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Check out the job market or follow through with a lead you received from someone you have worked with in the past. Put your skills to use in a unique way and you will advance. Celebrate with someone you love. ****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get out and have some fun. Engage in activities that will help you channel your energy into something beneficial. Be a part of something you believe will give you the strength and courage to follow your own path. ***

Birthday Baby: You are playful, engaging and charming. You are progressive and adventurous.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SCRUNCHING

Solution: 9 letters



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7/14

Clutch, Compact, Compress, Contract, Cram, Crimble, Crinkle, Crumple, Crush, Curis, Dresses, Fold, Forehead, Hair, Handclasp, Hose, Hunch, Jeans, Lips, Money, Noise, Nose, Objects, Paper, Pinch, Plastic, Shoulders, Skirt, Sleeves, Smoosh, Socks, Sound, Squashed, Squeeze, Squelching, Squish, Swish, Tissue, Toes, Together, Towels, Twist

Yesterday's Answer: Post

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Opening date: July 5, 2017 Closing date: July 25, 2017

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Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or at the CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at cpa.personnel@pticom.com or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

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WHATZIT?

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Script

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Find today's solution in classified section

LONDON (AP)—Chants of “Roger! Roger! Roger!” filled the early evening air at the All England Club, so after his post-match stretch, Roger Federer paused on a bridge connected to Centre Court and waved to his adoring public.

“When you see that they’re there for you, it’s a bit of an unusual feeling. I’m very touched, actually, to have so much support,” Federer said. “I never would have imagined when I was younger that I would have experienced this.”

Less than a month from his 36th birthday, Federer is still giving ‘em what they want. When Wimbledon began, Federer and the rest of the Big 4—Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray and Rafael Nadal—had accounted for each of the past 14 men’s singles championships. Now, as the tournament heads to the semifinals on Friday, only Federer remains.

Call him the Big 1.

“It’s nice to see different guys, maybe, but I’m happy that my dream run continues,” Federer said, “and we’ll now see what happens next.”

Federer’s path through the draw has been impressive, to say the least.

He has won every set he’s played this fortnight, the only semifinalist who can make that claim.

He has won 63 of 66 service games. He has faced only 14 break points. He has made only 49 unforced errors, fewer than 10 per match.

So the first question put to 2016 runner-up Milos Raonic after his 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (4) loss

1 of Big 4 left at Wimbledon, Federer



AP
Switzerland’s Roger Federer returns to Canada’s Milos Raonic during their Men’s Singles Quarterfinal Match on day nine at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London Wednesday, July 12, 2017.

to the seven-time Wimbledon champion in the quarterfinals Wednesday was: What does a guy have to do to beat Federer?

“You know, you have to do a lot. It’s a stiff task,” said Raonic, who defeated Federer in the semifinals last year before losing to Murray in the final. “I guess you can know what you have to do. It’s a lot harder to do it than just to know it.”

He’s hardly the first to realize that, of course.

After being eliminated by

Raonic a year ago, Federer took the rest of the season off to allow his surgically repaired left knee to heal properly. He already had missed last year’s French Open in May, ending a record streak of 65 consecutive appearances at Grand Slam tournaments, and then skipped the Rio de Janeiro Olympics and U.S. Open, too.

When Federer returned in January, he was fit and full of energy, and won his 18th major championship at the Aus-

tralian Open.

That was part of a 19-1, three-title start to 2017, before he took another break, sitting out the clay-court circuit and the French Open again.

“I could never really play quite so freely last year just because (now) I’m more focused on how the knee’s behaving, rather than how I need to hit my forehand or backhand or what’s not going to be good for my opponent,” Federer said. “This year, I’m just

a normal tennis player again, where I can focus on tactics. I think that’s the difference. I’m playing very well. I’m rested. I’m fresh. I’m confident, too. Then great things do happen.”

Such as becoming the oldest Wimbledon semifinalist since 1974.

Perhaps his rivals at the top of the game should take note.

Djokovic, a three-time champion at the All England Club, did say he would think about taking time away from the tour because of an injured right elbow that became so painful Wednesday he stopped in the second set of his quarterfinal against Tomas Berdych.

Murray, who won Wimbledon in 2013 and 2016, will consider an extended absence, too, after his sore left hip clearly hampered him while

being beaten 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-1, 6-1 in the quarterfinals by Sam Querrey.

“We both had a very long, very tough year, a lot of matches, a lot of emotions, a lot of things in play,” Djokovic said.

“Our bodies have taken a lot physically.”

While No. 3-seeded Federer will face No. 11 Berdych next, and No. 24 Querrey—the first U.S. man in a

Grand Slam semifinal since 2009—meets No. 7 Marin Cilic, No. 1 Murray and No. 2 Djokovic are done at Wimbledon this year.

So is No. 4 Nadal, a two-time champion who lost in the fourth round.

“Of course I’m surprised,” Federer said, “to see them going out.”

No one should be surprised that he is sticking around.



Past, not crowd, favors Williams against Konta at Wimbledon

LONDON (AP)—If past success were all that mattered when Venus Williams faces Johanna Konta in the Wimbledon semifinals, the matchup would be quite a mismatch.

For Williams, Thursday’s semifinal will be her 10th at the All England Club. For Konta, it’ll be her first—and the first for any British woman in 39 years.

For Williams, it’ll be the 22nd Grand Slam semifinal of her career. For Konta, her second.

“I definitely think experience helps, for sure. For a lot of the players I’ve played, it’s their first time in the third round or the quarterfinals (or) fourth round,” said the 37-year-old Williams, who is making her 20th Wimbledon appearance. “So I have an opportunity to bank on experience in having dealt with those sort of pressures before.”

One more discrepancy: Williams is aiming for a sixth Wimbledon singles championship and eighth overall at major tournaments. Konta owns zero such trophies.

“What Venus and her sister have given our sport is abso-

lutely tremendous. The way they’ve elevated women’s tennis is truly inspiring,” Konta said. “So I feel very excited and very humbled to be sharing the court with her again.”

The other semifinal also is rather lopsided in terms of past accomplishments: 14th-seeded Garbine Muguruza vs. 87th-ranked Magdalena Rybarikova. Muguruza won the French Open last year and was the runner-up at Wimbledon in 2015. Rybarikova, in contrast, had never been past the third round at any Grand Slam tournament in 35 previous attempts.

“She’s going to be (the) favorite,” Rybarikova said. “I’m here to enjoy the match. We’ll see what’s going to happen.”

They’ve played each other four times previously, each winning twice. Muguruza won the only past match at a major, 14-12 in the third set at the Australian Open in 2013. Rybarikova won the only past match on grass, 6-3, 6-1 at Birmingham in 2015.

This will be the sixth meeting between Konta and Williams. Konta won three, including at the 2016 Australian

Open, where she made her only other run to a major semifinal. Williams won their most recent match, on red clay at the Italian Open in May.

“I’ve never played her on grass,” Konta noted, “so that will be a new challenge for me.”

Indeed, the slick surface lends itself to Williams’ power-based game, making her terrific serve that much tougher to handle and giving her groundstrokes extra sting.

“She’s been on these courts many, many times, over many, many years,” said Anabel Medina Garrigues, who coaches the woman Williams overwhelmed in the quarterfinals, French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko. “It’s like home for her.”

Williams served at up to 119 mph (192 mph) against Ostapenko, finished with eight aces and only was broken once.

The American, the oldest Wimbledon semifinalist since Martina Navratilova was the runner-up in 1994, used body serves to tie up Ostapenko and could try that tactic again against Konta.

“It’s definitely a real asset. Been working on that serve.

It’s working out for me just in time, just for these later rounds,” Williams said. “I’d like to think that I can continue to rely on that as the matches continue.”

Williams said she thinks Konta plays with “a very similar style”—which, coming from her, is certainly a compliment.

One dynamic that never existed when they’ve met in the past: Konta will have thousands of spectators pulling loudly for her at Centre Court.

“I’m sure she’s confident and determined,” Williams said. “She’s probably dealing with a different kind of pressure, playing here at home. But she seems to be handling it well.”

Virginia Wade was the last British woman to win Wimbledon, all the way back in 1977. A year later, Wade was the runner-up to Chris Evert. Since then, the locals never had a countrywoman to cheer for this late in the tournament.

Until Konta.

“I’m just surprised,” said Wade, who sat in the Royal Box for Konta’s quarterfinal win, “it’s taken so long.”

Djokovic considers a break from tennis after Wimbledon loss

LONDON (AP)—Novak Djokovic is considering a break from tennis, with surgery on his injured right elbow now a possibility.

The 12-time Grand Slam champion, who has won three Wimbledon titles, retired from his quarterfinal match against Tomas Berdych at the All England Club on Wednesday. He said his elbow has been giving him problems for a year and a half.

“It’s not a time and place for me to talk about the details,” Djokovic said after pulling out while trailing 7-6 (2), 2-0. “I’m just going to talk with specialists, as I have done in the last year or

so, try to figure out what’s the best way to treat it and to solve it, to find a long-term solution.”

At the end of his news conference, speaking in Serbian and translated through an interpreter, Djokovic alluded to the fact he could end up taking a long break.

That would be a first for Djokovic, who has been one of the best players on tour for about a decade. He won the first of his six Australian Open titles in 2008, and won four straight majors from the 2015 Wimbledon tournament through last year’s French Open.

He hasn’t won one since.

Westbrook, Biles win athlete of year honors at The ESPYS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Russell Westbrook won best male athlete at The ESPYS, while Olympic gymnast Simone Biles earned best female athlete honors Wednesday night.

The 25th annual show honoring the past year's top athletes and sports moments was hosted by Peyton Manning, who humorously mocked his reputation as a control freak and an overexposed commercial pitchman in the retired NFL quarterback's opening monologue.

Westbrook was the NBA MVP, led the league in scoring and set a record for most triple-doubles in a season with 42. The Oklahoma City Thunder star won the trophy over Kris Bryant of the Chicago Cubs, Sidney Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins and Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps.

"It's been an unbelievable journey for me," said Westbrook, a fashion fiend who adjusted his black shirt and green pants with wide white stripes before he spoke. "I want to make sure I look good first."

Biles became the most decorated U.S. Olympic gymnast at the Rio de Janeiro Games, winning five medals, including four golds and a bronze. She beat out Olympic swimmer Katie Ledecky, WNBA star Candace Parker and Ser-

ena Williams for the honor.

"Ever since Rio it has been an amazing year," Biles said. "I want to thank you all for believing in me."

She was one of three double winners. Biles also won best female Olympic athlete.

Phelps won record-setting performance for extending his record Olympic medal haul and as best male Olympic athlete.

Aaron Rodgers won best NFL player and shared best play with then-Green Bay Packers teammate Jared Cook. Another Packer, Jordy Nelson, earned best comeback honors.

The biggest ovation of the night belonged to former first lady Michelle Obama, who posthumously honored Eunice Kennedy Shriver with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award for championing the rights and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities through her founding of Special Olympics. Her son, Tim Shriver, accepted the trophy.

"Once a great first lady, still a great first lady," Shriver told Obama as the crowd roared its approval.

The Patriots and Falcons shared the best-game award for the Super Bowl, won in a furious comeback by New England.

LeBron James, a five-time



winner last year, was named best NBA player. Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels won best MLB player, while Crosby won best NHL player.

The show's most bizarre bit involved Bill Murray accepting the best moment award for the Chicago Cubs' World Series victory that ended a 108-

AP
NBA basketball player Russell Westbrook, of the Oklahoma City Thunder, accepts the award for best male athlete at the ESPYS at the Microsoft Theater on Wednesday, July 12, 2017, in Los Angeles.

year championship drought.

Wearing a red party hat on top of a backward Cubs cap, Murray cracked, "One hundred eight years of waiting is hardly a moment. This is the culmination of 108 years of momentum by momentous men."

The actor and comic plucked a bottle of champagne out of a mop bucket being pushed by retired Cubs catcher David Ross disguised as a janitor. Murray used a sword to open the bottle and took a swig. He gave presenter Nick Offerman a bottle to open with the sword, and the longtime Cubs fans toasted and drank.

Ross eventually shed his disguise and writhed on the stage mimicking moves from his "Dancing With the Stars" appearance. Ross opened his own champagne bottle with the sword and chugged as Cubs owner Tom Ricketts watched from the audience at Microsoft Theater. The trio then poured champagne on

each other's heads.

The NBA champion Golden State Warriors earned best team honors, while Warriors newcomer Kevin Durant received the championship performance trophy.

"It was an unbelievable year," Warriors guard Stephen Curry said. "A lot of noise and hype around it from the beginning of the year, but we tried to keep our head down and focus on the process. Hope to represent exactly what a team means."

Actor Bryan Cranston presented the Icon Award to 89-year-old Vin Scully, who retired in October after a record 67 years broadcasting for the Dodgers.

"Hi everybody and a very pleasant good evening to you," Scully said, drawing cheers at his signature greeting. "I hope you don't mind, but I wanted to hear it one more time."

Comedian Jon Stewart gave the Pat Tillman Award for Service to Air Force Master Sgt. Israel Del Toro for his strength through adversity and continued service to his country.

The Jimmy V Award for Perseverance was given to 15-year-old New Orleans Saints superfan Jarrius "JJ" Robertson, who is fighting a rare and chronic liver disease.



LAS VEGAS (AP)—Lonzo Ball's dud of a debut is long forgotten. And on Wednesday night, so were his Big Baller Brand sneakers.

Now he has the best game of the NBA Summer League—and another playoff game for a chance to top it.

Ball had 36 points, 11 assists, eight rebounds and five steals to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 103-102 victory

Ball has 36 in Nike sneakers, Lakers win

over the Philadelphia 76ers in their opening game of the tournament stage.

The No. 2 overall draft pick came back from a one-game absence—and did so wearing Nike Kobe AD sneakers instead of a pair from the line that his father, LaVar, is marketing for \$495 a pair. Then he brought the Lakers back from a 15-point deficit

to claim a spot in the round of 16 on Thursday against No. 2 seed Cleveland.

Asked why he changed sneakers, Ball said it was "Mamba mentality," referring to Kobe Bryant's nickname.

"Just thought I'd switch it up," Ball added. "Wore them tonight. It's good when you can wear whatever you want."

LeBron James was at the

game and he noticed, posting a picture of the shoes on Instagram and writing "Just. Do. It."

Ball was having an up-and-down start to his pro career in Las Vegas. He was 2 for 15 from the field in an opening loss, responded with a triple-double in another loss, then sat out the third game with a sore groin as critics said he was

avoiding having to face No. 5 pick De'Aaron Fox in that game against Sacramento.

Ball looked fine Wednesday while playing against a Philadelphia team playing without Markelle Fultz, the player drafted before Ball who is sitting out with an ankle injury.

The point guard from UCLA scored 28 points in the second half, but the Lak-

ers couldn't get him the ball on an inbounds pass trailing by one. Instead, Ivaca Zubac got free and was fouled with 4.6 seconds left, making both free throws to give the No. 15 seeds the lead for good.

Furkan Korkmaz scored 19 for the No. 18 76ers (1-3).

The tournament began Wednesday with eight games, featuring the Nos. 9-24 seeds. The top eight seeds earned byes into the second round Thursday.



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Baseball chasing Dodgers, Astros on eve of second half

By JAY COHEN
AP SPORTS WRITER



The Washington Nationals have Bryce

Harper anchoring one of baseball's best lineups, and a glaring hole at the back of their bullpen. The Boston Red Sox are enjoying life with Chris Sale, and missing David Ortiz at times. The Chicago Cubs are searching for answers for their pesky championship hangover.

The Los Angeles Dodgers and Houston Astros are looking down at the rest of the majors right now, and it's quite a gap at the moment.

With the All-Star Game in the rearview mirror and the trade deadline inching closer, the World Series favorites are as clear as the beautiful blue waters of Miami that hosted baseball's best players for the past couple days. The Dodgers and Astros are each on pace to win 100-plus games, something that hasn't happened for two teams in a single season since the St. Louis Cardinals and New York Yankees in 2004.

"I don't think there's one key, but I think that's probably why we're doing so well - is that there's not one specific thing you can hone in on as to why we're playing so



National League's Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Alex Wood (57), delivers a pitch during the fifth inning, at the MLB baseball All-Star Game, Tuesday, July 11, 2017, in Miami.

well," Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw said.

Los Angeles leads the majors with a 61-29 record, one game better than Houston and 7 1/2 ahead of second-place Arizona in the loaded NL West. The Dodgers' plus-163 run differential is the best in National League history at the All-Star break, according to STATS LLC.

Kershaw has been, well,

Kershaw, and Kenley Jansen remains one of the majors' best closers. But rookie Cody Bellinger has provided an unexpected lift with 25 homers, and left-hander Alex Wood is 10-0 with a 1.67 ERA.

"Every night it's somebody different, and that's a sign of a good team," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "It seems like I say depth every single night, but that's prob-

ably been the biggest reason for our success."

The Astros are feeling pretty good, too. Led by All-Stars Carlos Correa, Jose Altuve and George Springer, they top the majors in runs, hits, home runs, RBIs and batting average. Perhaps most importantly, they also have a whopping 16 1/2-game lead in the AL West, allowing them to go slowly with Dallas Keuchel

after the 2015 AL Cy Young Award winner was shelved by a neck injury.

"You don't think you're going to play that well but you don't think you're going to play badly either," Springer said. "I'll take it."

A year ago, the Cubs were in the same position as the Dodgers and Astros, on top of the game heading into the second half of the season. They went on to their first World Series championship since 1908, but their title defense has been one bumpy ride so far.

Hampered by injuries and inconsistency, the Cubs are under .500 and trail surprising Milwaukee by 5 1/2 games in the NL Central. The Cleveland Indians, who lost to Chicago in the World Series, have experienced some of the same problems, but they are in position for another October run at the top of the AL Central.

"We definitely believe in ourselves as a team. We know what we have here, what we're capable of," Cubs second baseman Ben Zobrist said. "Just got to execute better in the second half and really turn on the burners."

SHIRLEY'S

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followed by Matansa (6-3-4), Korean Football Association on Saipan (3-2-8), Women's National Team (3-0-10), and the Thundercats (1-2-10). The Women's National Team will have its last game versus Matansa at 3:15pm, while Shirley's FC-2 will collide against KFAS.

The final four matches in Division B will determine the winner in the Golden Boot

REYES

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the elite group.

Reyes went on to gain three individuals awards as she was also named scoring champion during the trophy presentation sponsored by Docomo Pacific. Besides the individual awards, Docomo Pacific handed team trophies, too with the Venus Sportsmanship Award, named after long-time basketball official and league organizer Abner Venus, going to the Lady Knights. IT&E, Ol'Aces, Junior Ol'Aces, and the Lady Knights were awarded the championship, first, second, and third runners-up trophies.

In the boys U15 division, the Ol'Aces got the championship trophy, while second placer 670 Sonics/PHI, third finisher NMI Rollers, and fourth placer Talaabwogh Young Warriors also earned awards. The Ol'Aces Extreme got the Venus Sportsmanship Award.

In the individual cat-

Another starting pitcher also could help the Cubs, so expect Theo Epstein and company to be working the phones all the way to the non-waiver trade deadline on July 31. The Astros, Brewers, Rockies and sweet-swinging Yankees also could be on the lookout for rotation help.

Some possibilities include White Sox left-hander Jose Quintana, Athletics right-hander Sonny Gray and Tigers star Justin Verlander. Any one of those pitchers on the right team could help close the gap with the Dodgers and Astros.

"We've had a lot of injuries, a lot of guys going down," Yankees slugger Aaron Judge said. "We'll get a couple guys back so I'm looking forward to the second half."

Washington needs another arm or two for its bullpen, and Boston could look for a power-hitting third baseman before the deadline. While Ortiz seems to be enjoying his retirement very much, the AL East-leading Red Sox have an AL-low 92 homers at the break. The Nationals bashed their way to a big lead in the NL East, but they have 14 blown saves and a major league-worst 5.20 bullpen ERA.

race, as there is a close race for the top honors among three players.

Wang has 10 so far to lead KFAS' Edwin Kim and the former's teammate Feng Yu, who have eight apiece. Kanoa's Ian Maniago, Shirley's FC-2's Ryu Hoin and Dhiraj Chhetri, and Shirley's FC-1's Kosuke Sato have recorded seven each, while Shirley's FC-2's Jack Phan, Matansa's Al-Amin Fnu, and Shirley's FC-1's Jerry Tan have scored 6 apiece.

egories, the Ol'Aces' Rikko Saralu went home with three awards—the regular and Finals MVP plums and a medal for his inclusion on the Mythical Five Selection. Saralu was in the company of the Ol'Aces Extreme's Justin Laniyo, 670 Sonics' Clarenz Contreras, Young Warriors' Francisco Kumuch, and the NMI Rollers' Sunjoon Tenorio, who was also named as the scoring champion in the division.

In the boys U18 division, the NMI/DYI Roller's Kenji Abobo took the regular season MVP trophy, while the Ol'Aces' Aiferson Atan got the Finals MVP award. Abobo also made it to the Mythical Five Selection along with the Ol'Aces/E Dean Blake, Mount Carmel School's Tony Deleon Guerrero, Natibu Warriors' Rawhoo Sulap, and the Northside Wolves' Duncan Laxa. Northside brought home the Venus Sportsmanship Award, while Laxa was handed the scoring champion trophy.

Krishnan takes SGA June Ace



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Das Krishnan won the Saipan Golf Association June Ace after topping last month's tournament at Coral Ocean Point.

Krishnan shot similar scores of 43 on the front and back nine for a gross 86 and deducting his 14 handicap, he ended up with a net 72 for a one-

stroke victory over Attorney General Ed Manibusan and Frances Sablan. The 5-handicapper Manibusan posted a net 73 in the June 25 competition, built around his 40 and 38 on the front and back nines. He prevailed in the scoreboard tiebreak for second place against Sablan, a 28-handicapper, and fired a 48 and 53 on the front and back nines for a gross 101.

With his triumph in last month's event, Krishnan earned a ticket to the SGA Ace of Aces Tournament, joining early qualifiers Frances M. Sablan (January winner), John "Nanni" Cruz (February), Juan Lizama (March), Nick Sablan, (April), and Larry Deleon Guerrero (May). Krishnan also made one of the two longest drives in the June contest, having

the feat in hole No. 2, while Manibusan did the same in hole No. 12. Manibusan had a closest to the pin shot in hole No. 12, too, while other closest to the pin winners were Alex Tudela in No. 3, Steve Balakrishna in No. 7, and Ed Sablan in No. 14.

Meanwhile, SGA will have its July Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday at the Marianas Country Club. Show time is at 8:30am, while tee off is at 9:30am. *(Roselyn B. Monroyo)*

OL'ACES

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free throws. The NMI/DYS Rollers, on the other hand, got its 3 points from Warren Ellama's drive and a split charity from Ian Mendoza.

The NMI/DYS Rollers continued to struggle in the third quarter, as it was rattled by the dreaded trapping defense of the Ol'Aces from the backcourt. The Ol'Aces then complemented their pressure defense with a fast-paced offense, resulting to another scoring spurt, 12-1, for the squad's 41-20 lead at the 5:32 mark of the third frame.

NMI/DYS Rollers coach Joe Diaz pressed the panic bottom after the Ol'Aces' advantage ballooned to 21, hoping to bring order back into his team. However, they had a little success, as the NMI/

DYS Rollers just cut the deficit to 19 by the end of the third canto, 30-49.

The NMI/DYS Rollers then made one final push for a big comeback, as the Ol'Aces let their guards down a bit in the fourth quarter, but the best that the former could do was move within 10, 44-54, down to the last 2:57 of the title game. Actually, the NMI/DYS Rollers had several chances to bring the deficit to single digits, but they missed at least six attempts in its next three possessions.

A Santos banked in jumper from the right baseline off a kick-out pass from Castro and an Aiferson Atan running shot from the left baseline then sealed the deal for the Ol'Aces, as the squad went up, 58-44, with less than a minute left in the game.

Santos top-scored for the Ol'Aces with his 11 points,

while Atan added 8. K.J. Kabiriel also chipped in 8 markers, while Dean Blake, Castro, and Jerald Castillo combined for 25 points in another balance show on the offensive end for the Ol'Aces.

Jun Alipio led the NMI/DYS Rollers' losing cause with his 11 markers, while the rest of his teammates were held to no more than three field goals. The NMI/DYS Rollers failed to keep up with the Ol'Aces defense and offense as they clearly missed the presence of key players Dalton Dancoe and Angelo Factor. Dancoe is off to college in the mainland, while Factor is on vacation in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Natibu Warriors won the battle for third place against the 670 Sonics XVI, 50-35.

Rocco Garde had 12 points

in the Warriors' victory.

Finals Game

Ol'Aces 62 – Santos 11, Kabiriel 8, Atan 8, Blake 7, Castro 7, Siech 6, Castillo 5, Sablan 4, Bondoc 2, Manglona 2, Ngirarois 2.

NMI/DYS Rollers 45 – Alipio 11, Fidelino 7, Ellama 7, Abobo 6, Cobacha 6, Tengco 4, Kapwich 3, Mendoza 1.

Scoring by quarters: 8-9, 28-19, 49-30, 62-45.

Consolation Game

Natibu Warriors 50 – Garde 12, M. Aguon 8, H. Aguon 6, Kainoa 6, T. Sulap 4, R. Sulap 4, Omar 4, Fejeran 4, Malwelbug 2.

670 Sonics XVI 35 – Rafols 7, Sabangan 7, Kintaro 6, Ordon 4, Diaz 2, Magat 2, Apasan 2, De Guzman 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-8, 26-17, 36-24, 50-35.

CNMI Boys U15 National Team Training Camp

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



The CNMI Boys U15 National Team's starting 11 pose for a photo before their first match against Guam Boys U16 National Team last week at the Guam Football Association National Training Center.



Teen Ayuyus captain Sebastien Manabat, fourth left, poses with his counterpart in Guam and game officials before the start of the training match.



CNMI and Guam players wait for the introduction of the teams.



The Teen Ayuyus perform training drills.



Teen Ayuyus head coach Michiteru Mita, wearing white cap, gives pointers to the players.



The Teen Ayuyus celebrate after John Michael Rojas scored a goal against Guam.



The CNMI Boys U15 National Team's starting 11 gather for a group photo before their training match versus Dededo FC/Wings FC U15.



The Teen Ayuyus are hosted by Shirley's Coffee Shop in Harmon.



1 of Big 4 left
at Wimbledon,
Federer

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Westbrook, Biles
win athlete of
year honors at
The ESPYS

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

32 FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2017

Ol'Aces top NMI Rollers in finale



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Jerald Castillo takes off for a shot against the NMI/DYS Rollers' Jun Fidelino during the third quarter of their title game in the boys U18 division of the Diaz youth caging last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Ol'Aces ruled the boys U18 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League following an emphatic 62-45 victory against the NMI/DYS Rollers in their title match last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces gained cushion late in the second quarter and brought that momentum in the early goings of the third quarter to ease past the NMI/DYS Rollers in the winner-take-all finale. The title victory capped the Ol'Aces' perfect run this season, as they swept the 11 games in the elimination and prevailed in three playoff matches to reign supreme in the division.



Ahead by only a point, 17-16, down to the last 2:45 of the second period, the Ol'Aces had an 11-3 windup to enter halftime with a 28-19 advantage. Coby Santos anchored the late surge, as he scored 7 straight points in that run off a triple, a pull-up jumper, and a layup, while Jeff Castro contributed a field goal and N-Nes Siech added two

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Reyes, Villagomez win MVP awards



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Finals MVP and IT&E's Gillian Villagomez, right, dribbles past an Ol'Aces defender during their title match in the girls U18 division of the Diaz youth caging last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

IT&E's Karleen Reyes and Gillian Villagomez swept the MVP awards in the girls U18 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League.

Reyes took the regular season MVP plum, while Villagomez earned the Finals

MVP trophy. The two players towed IT&E to a 64-48 title victory against the Ol'Aces. Villagomez and Reyes also made it to the Mythical Five Selection of the division, joining the Junior Ol'Aces' Alliyah Fernandez and Desrei Camacho and the Lady Knights' Quincy Chinen in

See REYES on Page 30

Shirley's FC-1 eyes unbeaten record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Division B champion Shirley's FC-1 aims for a fitting finish in the spring season of the M-League as it plays its last game against Sun Palace this Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Shirley's FC-1, which secured the division title last month, holds an 11-2-0 win-draw-loss record in the eight-squad field and will try to keep its undefeated mark when it duels Sun Palace in the 3:15pm game. Going into its final match this season, Shirley's FC-1 has collected 34 goals and has given up 8—the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's FC-1's Fradel Sedillo, left, goes for a kick and is defended by a Shirley's FC-2 player during their second round game in Division B of the M-League at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

least allowed so far in the entire competition.

Sun Palace will also have its last game and will attempt to improve its 7-1-5 card for a chance to finish at No. 2 in the team standings. Sun Palace is ranked No. 3, going into the final week of the league, closely behind Kanoa, which owns a 7-2-4 mark and will face the Thundercats in its last match of the season. A 1-0 victory over Shirley's FC-2 last Sunday gave Sun Palace its seventh win and Qiwei Wang scored the lone goal in that match in the 25th minute.

With the loss, Shirley's FC-2 remained at fourth place with its 6-4-3 mark, and is

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 30